CHORUS

The International Crosby Circle presents

BING

ONE, TWO, BUTTON Put on your coat and hat;

IF I HAD MY WAY

play a game like wait-ing for you.

THE COUNTRY GIRL

BELLS OF ST. MARY'S

ROAD TO MOROCCO

HERE IS MY HEART

ee, four, heav-en's sake;

ARTHUR'S COURT

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

WAIKIKI WEDDING

BLUE SKIES

I count each step you take While I'm wait-ing for you.

ROAD TO UTOPIA

ONLY FOREVER

GOING MY WAY

Edited by

FRANK MURPHY

Hon President: BING CROSBY

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE
incorporating
THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY
founded 1950

Hon Vice-President: LARRY CROSBY

PUBLIC RELATIONS:	PUBLICITY OFFICER	BINGPICS	MOVIE CONSULTANT
Don Woolland	Bob Roberts	John Maughan	Les Phythian
151 Cauldwell Lane	56 Thorold Road	1 Lauderdale Ave	60 Grant Ave
West Monkseaton	Chatham	Wallsend	Wavertree
Whitley Bay	Kent	Northumberland	Liverpool 15
Northumberland	England	England	England
England			

****

CORRESPONDENTS

AUSTRALIA:
Keith Hyde "El Bingo" 21 Carbeena Parade, West Heidelburg N23, Victoria

BRITISH ISLES:
John Jones 15 Victoria Gdns, Ballyhalbert, Co Down, N. Ireland.
Jack Osborne, 11 Dart Hill, Belfast, N. Ireland.
Michael Crampton, 1 Langbar Sq, Whinmoor, Leeds 14, England tele 642349
Reg Bristo, 95 Lydstep Flats, Gabalfa, Cardiff, Glamorgan, Wales

SCANDINAVIA:
Erik Harrison, c/o Post Office Box 260, Bergen, Norway.

CANADA:
Jean Paul Frereault, 1541 Iena Ave, Chomedy, Laval Town, Port Quebec.

EIRE:
George O' Reilly, 143 Shantalla Rd, Whitehall, Dublin.

ISRAEL:
Samuel Sternburg, Ness-Ziona P.O.B. 19, Nechemia St 130.

****

SECRETARY
Frank Murphy, 23 Lovaine Pl, North Shields, Northumberland
England - Tele North Shields 70492

****

"BING" the official journal of THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE is published quarterly on the 25th day of January-April-July-October and is edited, produced and distributed free of cost to the registered members of the I.C.C. by Frank Murphy to whom all material, adverts, record - pen pal requests etc etc should be sent.

Renewals - When your renewal is due, a special renewal notice will be included with your magazine - To ensure continuance of your membership please note your renewal must be received within one month of your receipt of same.

When writing to the clubs officers, please always extend the courtesy of a stamped self addressed envelope.

****

Honorary Members include;-
Dorothy Hardiman-former Pres - Mick Drury-Tape Crosby
Stan White-former Publicity Officer

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE
presents
Issue No 8 "BING" Oct.25 1967

"IN THIS ISSUE"

SPECIALS.....Page 15 Club Meeting - Leeds - Sun Nov 19
28 Crosby Shoppe - special auction
30 Christmas present for Bing & Kathryn
35 Bingpics - special souvenir set
36 Christmas 1967 - special photos

PLUS

4..THE LESLIE GAYLOR COLUMNS.....
9..The 1930's Record Society.....
10..PAUL HOLLINGDALE by STAN WHITE.....
12.."BING" the top magazine?.....
14..Bing and Bob make a sweet pair.....
16..Case for the defence by FRED REYNOLDS..
19..FILMGEN by RON BOSLEY and ALAN LURIE...
20..Letters to the editor.....
23..THE PETER WILSON COLUMNS.....
25..MOVIE FILE by ALAN LURIE and RON BOSLEY
28..British Report by MICHAEL CRAMPTON.....
30..THE FRANK MURPHY COLUMNS.....
34..Canadian Report by JEAN PAUL FRERAULT..
39..Israel-Australia-England-united.....
40..THE REG BRISTO COLUMNS.....
55..Can't we talk it Over by LES PHYTHIAN..

PHOTO PAGES

13..THE MOON GOT IN MY EYES - courtesy of Jean Paul Frerault
18..IF I HAD MY WAY - courtesy of Jean Paul Frerault
24..BIRTH OF THE BLUES - courtesy of Alan Lurie and Ron Bosley
26..RIDING HIGH - courtesy of Alan Lurie and Ron Bosley
36-37-38..Special Christmas display with scenes from WHITE CHRISTMAS - These pages appear by courtesy of the Christmas 1960 edition of CROSBY POST
56..GOIN MY WAY - courtesy of Jean Paul Frerault

==========

In the next issue of "BING" we will be presenting a further selection of great photo pages including a special new and very unusual cover which we think is unique in club magazines

New record release in ENGLAND - British Decca

RARE STYLE - AH 164 Mono
see page 35

Overseas members order your copy direct from Frank Murphy - send British equivalent of £1-5-0 (or) USA - 4 dollars

Our Northern Ireland Corres' JOHNNY JONES has been very active these past months in an effort to organise special club PLAQUES for wall hanging and also club TIES and lapel badges - in order that we can get a rough estimate of those members interested in these would you please mention your interest in your letters to any of the clubs officers

New record release in ENGLAND - CBS-HALLMARK are issueing a special cheap label release in Nov - no titles available at press time - see next issue - or send British equivalent of 15/0 or USA 3 dollars for copy

==========

EDITORIAL - Short and Sweet - because we've said it all so many times - but just want to take this brief opportunity to thank all the contributers to this issue - somehow it's been an especially nice chore this time - we'll be back in 1968 with more treats and of course "BING" - see you then - Frank

THE LESLIE GAYLOR COLUMNS

DIRECT FROM NEWPORT..ISLE OF WIGHT

Well friends, although 3 months elapses between the issues of our magazine, time seems to come round very quickly for regular contributers to submit their pieces for the coming "BING" - so here goes with my effort.

As is usual with me I must say I thonoughly enjoyed the last issue, and Frank seems to have very little time to produce it, but nevertheless he has retained his medals' and satisfied me. I only hope also that our old friend Fred Reynolds was satisfied with the mag. Perhaps in the future he can come up with some worthwhile reading material for us, and of his own creation, and not like the article he sent for publication in the C.C. expressing the views of Fred U.S.A. contact who reckoned that Bing should have packed up years ago. Can anyone imagine us being without the LONGINES tracks, or the great recent Australian EP release - Fred seemed to hold quite some allegiance to his American friends opinions. As Fred was a long time correspondent of mine, and a Bing fan of many years standing , I regret that he looked down "from lofty heights" upon one or two others who are just as keen as he is.

DISC SHORTAGE

Frank Murphy touched upon the shortage of new Bing material and of the near retirement of the maestro - tis' all a pity really but it is a fact we have to face up to. Bing looks so well and able to carry on with more work than he is doing, but it is obviously his decision after a long and successful career to enjoy his latter years. But if only he would make a few more records, would'nt we all be happier - I touched upon this subject with Bing once and he came out point blank with-; "They don't want my records these days" - I was also reading his comments expressed in a letter to a bandleader, Cyril Stapleton, some years ago, when Bing said that the enthusiasm to make records was not as great as it once was.
We were also dealt a blow in the death of SIMON RADY, it's pretty safe to say that had he been alive we would have had quite a number of extra Bing albums in our collections. - Mr Rady was constantly on the lookout for ideas for Bing albums and he told me he had plans for Bing disc material. He knew the wants of the Crosby collectors as well as any artists and record manager, and he said that he enjoyed the correspondence that he received from Bing fans from all over the world.
I think some of you tend to feel that SONNY BURKE of REPRISE doesn't bother about recording Bing, but they are good friends - I think you can put it down to the fact that it's a touch job to get Bing to the recording studios these days, but if there was that little extra demand for his records, you'd find him there more often.

BING BOOSTING

In the last issue of the magazine Frank Murphy appealed to the members to send more request cards to the BBC etc - this was a great appeal as I think it is quite something I think to keep the flag flying for the OLD MASTER - Not that Bing is in dire need of any plugging, he's had more success than anybody, but he is certainly appreiative of his fans support - I CAN TELL YOU THIS FIRST HAND AND STRAIGHT FROM BING HIMSELF - There are big time collectors who don't lift a finger in support of Bing, they think that a bit of correspondence between collectors is "carrying the banner. Frank has certainly given some boosts to show off Bing's status and on the right mediums too - Congrats Frank for all the great plugs you have got in - I might add I've got a few in myself too. and other people in the right bracket have personally told Bing of my boosts. His acknowledgements to me were very pleasing - So don't let any self styled Crosby experts tell you that you're wasting your time, like certain ones suggested when I did a 4 week serialised article on Bing for the RECORD MIRROR in 1963 - So members, keep the ball rolling - Let me give you just one of my recent efforts.....

...As I think so highly of the 16 LONGINES recordings I had some correspondence with Mr Derek Lewis of the BBC library about them. The result is that in his last letter Mr Lewis informed me that he was applying to purchase the 7 album set for the BBC and permission to broadcast them - I considered that it was a pity that such fine recordings were not being heard over the radio here. They are very modern sounding so they stand a good chance of some airings and as I write this I hope Mr Lewis has now got the discs from the USA - He also thanks me for tipping him off and there are dozens of other instances I could quote here. It is to my knowledge that plenty of people outside of our "CIRCLE" know of Frank's and indeed my own Bing plugs and perhaps one of the most glaring instances was just prior to BRITISH DECCA'S 15 album release in 1962 of BING'S HOLLYWOOD - Frank and myself had, unknown to each other received a telegram from Decca to phone up one of their top men to help out with some Bing gen to coincide with the 15 album set - As I was talking to the man concerned he suddenly replied that as he had a call waiting for him from Newcastle he would have to break off - yes, it was Frank ringing Decca from Newcastle, and as we later discovered we were able to give Decca some help on quite a few Bing boosting points.

THE LIVERPOOL DAILY POST

Reading Reg Bristo's columns in the last BING about the fellow who wrote to him from Crosby in Liverpool. reminds me of the letter I recently had from Mr Spencer Leigh, 8 Mersey Rd, Crosby, Liverpool - he sent me a cutting from the Liverpool Daily Post of 14-July-1967 whereby a reveiwer wrote;-

> The Empire re-opens next week with a big variety bill starring ARTHUR TRACY, America's original Street Singer. This world famous master of melody has not visited the city for the best part of 30 years. It is doubtful whether any disc singer in history has equalled his sales.

I wrote up a letter to the paper in diplomatic style and got a great plug in for Bingand for some unknown reason they tagged on that I was PRESIDENT of THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE - (Ed - Les, would that be bad) They must have wondered who the heck tipped me off about the snippet right down here in the Isle of Wight.

UNISSUED ALBUM

From time to time I get a request for any possible further information relating to the unissued album that I first gave information about in this magazine - I refer of course to the recordings that Bing made at WESTERN RECORDERS on June 21-26, 1962. At the time of writing there is still no news whatsoever that these recordings will be issued, one can only wonder what the eventual outcome will be - I did have a letter at the beginning of the year stating that there was hope that it might be released, but as a longtime has now elapsed since I was first informed about the recordings, in a letter dated August 21, 1962, I have naturally longed for it's release - So I can only suggest - Keep your chins up.

There could be several reasons why the tapes are held, although SIMON RADY who produced the sessions sent word via my contact that Mr Crosby had recently recorded TWO SINGALONG ALBUMS abd being as it would be some time before they were released I could have the TITLES, RECORDING DATES and MASTER NUMBERS when he gave the go-ahead - When the first album was released BING CROSBY ON THE HAPPY SIDE, they sent me the data I required and I learned that WARNER BROS were scheduled to release the second album and as you now know they never did issue it. Had they done so it would have been in contract and agreement with PROJECT RECORDS of which company Simon Rady was President and Bing himself a part owner - However PROJECT RECORDS was sold to CAPITOL RECORDS and SIMON RADY took up a post with them, so the question now is, who owns these unissued tapes - I'll have to find out.

Les continues on page 6

LES CONTINUES
the leslie gaylor columns
****
****
****
****

At the time also there was a query in the USA about Bing using overseas accompaniments, and another point is that the singalong album appeal has probably subsided in the States - It is now 5 years since I was informed about this unissued album, from the top official source, yet early this year when I decided to publish this information in my columns, expert opinion here suggested that there was nothing concrete in the information I gave - At the same time I was holding a duplicated data sheet from the private files of one of Bing's managers about the album. I will ask again if there is any chance of it coming out, but my guess is that we will only see it when Bing "calls it a day" - I hope I'm wrong with my humble opinion.

SOUVENIR...BBC

I wonder how many of you heard the BBC Light Programme transmission of SOUVENIR on Tuesday August 29th - Introduced by singer RONNIE CARROLL it featured a great piece by Bing telling of his very first recording with DON CLARK and the Hotel Biltmore orchestra. Bing could'nt remember the song title but said it was something about "your lovin and my lovin" and that it was recorded in a warehouse and that it was a duet with AL RINKER (I'VE GOT THE GIRL) - he remembered singing into a large type megaphone. Once again he emphasised that his favourite and best recording was MY ISLE OF GOLDEN DREAMS and he thought the early recording of OL' MAN RIVER with PAUL WHITEMAN'S ORCHESTRA was a good recording because it had a fine arrangement - Bing never gave any appraisal of his own recordings and he conveyed that they got through somehow. Ronnie Carroll played one of his personal favourites BING and JOHNNY MERCER's MR MEADOWLARK,. It was a good half hour I thought with a couple of classy recordings by PERRY COMO and NAT KING COLE among others.

BEHIND THE SCENES...PARADE

PAUL CARSON who has a show biz column in the pin up magazines often includes something of Bing and in the issue of PARADE for August 19th 1967, he mentions a few facts about Producer HARRY ALAN TOWERS whose latest film is ROCKET TO THE MOON - As you know Bing was almost in this film but had to back out because of bursitis in his shoulder - However Paul Carson writes - "Towers is now looking ahead ambiteously. He expects to get BING CROSBY and NOEL COWARD to play in a Far East comedy called MAD DOGS AND ENGLISHMEN"- years ago Mr Towers used to be associated with the BBC's white label discs and programmes of THE MARCH OF THE MOVIES.

A DATE WITH THE FORTIES

I have been a regular listener to ALAN DELL'S excellent programme on the BBC every Monday night and they have received quite a number of request cards from me - We all know Alan Dell is a great FRANK SINATRA 'booster' and he's shown himself to have been more than fair to Bing in these programmes - The Old Master has been featured on a number of occasions and Alan has done him justice. Judging from the announcements there has been many letters received at the BBC for Bing recordings as indeed there has been for other artists - What a treat it has been to hear some of the great band recordings of the 40's and to think we are now plaqued with "long-haired" beat groups made up of three chord guitar pluckers and drum bashers complete with all their air of "effeminity".

POINTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE

Yes, JUD PROCTOR did the guitar playing on the HOLIDAY IN EUROPE album, he is one of Britain's best guitar players and it's a pity that he was'nt better known.

Again, Yes, to the fact that Bing had to do 4 takes' of MELANCHOLIE in order to get a satisfactory recording for the HOLIDAY IN EUROPE album. This is a rare occurance for Bing, but his Musical Director BOB THOMPSON who came over from the States for the session ok'd the final 'take' on 15th October 1960.

I also note the BBC seem very often to use just these few Bing's; STRAIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE..TRUE LOVE..NOW YOU HAS JAZZ..I LOVE YOU SAMANTHA..BUSY DOING NOTHIN.. WELL DID YOU EVAH, among one or two others including THE BELLS OF ST MARY'S. Now and again you do get odd ones such as THE TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC..YOU'RE THE TOP and MOUNTAIN GREENERY.

I too heard the praise by MAGGIE CLEWS on FAMILY FAVOURITES., August 20 when after playing THE BELLS OF ST MARY'S she said something to the effect that Bing had a lovely voice, do you remember the forces DJ in Germany in the radio link asked Maggie Clews if she remembered Bing.. A large platinum disc photo plus a few extraordinary facts from me obviously enlightened them.

I admit that things look a little odd for the recording of I GUESS IT HAD TO BE THAT WAY but this is what I have from an American Columbia letter of many years ago, and the following is correct;-

TITLE	MASTER No'	RECORDED
THANKS	LA 1	27-8-1933
THE DAY YOU CAME ALONG	LA 2	27-8-1933
I GUESS IT HAD TO BE THAT WAY	LA 3	26-8-1933
BLACK MOONLIGHT	LA 4	27-8-1933

Reference to the two sessions for the 7th and 8th Febuary 1951, this is what was supplied to me from American Decca

FORSAKING ALL OTHERS	L 6044	8-2-1951
SPARROW IN THE TREETOP	L 6045	8-2-1951
I MIGHT BE YOUR ONCE IN A WHILE	L 6049	7-2-1951
INDIAN SUMMER	L 6050	7-2-1951
MORE I CANNOT WISH YOU	L 6051	7-2-1951
THE LONELINESS OF EVENING	L 6053	7-2-1951
ANYTOWN IS PARIS WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG	L 6052	8-2-1951

The answer to the above queries is that it was obvious that blocks of matrix no's were allocated to the songs before recording.

Yes, I too regret that LENNIE HAYTON's brilliant piano piece was cut out of the recording of TEMPTATION as used on the recent REALM LP, certainly spoilt it - Same goes I agree to the verse being chopped off GRANADA as used on the LP and what about HOW DEEP IS THE OCEAN being a little shortened as well.

THE LONGINES SYMPHONETTE SOCIETY

Reference to those who are interested in the newer recordings that Bing told me he would record for Longines, a letter from my longtime USA contact and dated September 22-1967 reads that MR CROSBY HAS NOT YET MADE THE RECORDINGS. REST ASSURED HOWEVER, WHEN THE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE WE WILL LET YOU KNOW - So keep your fingers crossed friends.

MY MEETINGS WITH BING

I have been asked if I will enlighten a little more on my meetings with Bing in LONDON on June 6 and 9th last, and this I am happy to do as it really is a thrill to meet the OLD MASTER - Perhaps I can best put it in snippet form something like this;-

Turn to page 8 for BINGandLESLIE chatter

** THE LESLIE GAYLOR COLUMNS ' ****
**********CONT ' ****
****

..Well one thing we were discussing was Bing's HOLLYWOOD PALACE TV showsand his statement that his next show was to be made or screened next September 13 - last. I think that was the date he gave me - He suddenly looked up and said "When are you going to have colour TV here - Makes all the difference you know in colour" He was also in surprised mood when I said the Hollywood Palace shows hav'nt been shown in Britain yet.

Bing also mentioned that it was alright coming over here by plane but that whenever he returned he was always tired for a couple of days - it was the difference in time.

As I stated in our last issue he spoke to some extent about the Isle of Wight and about Hovercraft - he asked about the principle of the machines and did any run across the Channel. Actually I was teying to get him to consider coming to the Island so that he could be a guest of the Hovercraft Corporation. He listened very intently but I assumed he had other committments laid on.

The news he gave me about the Longines new tracks was of course wonderful to hear and he also told me where he taped the previous 16 tracks for Longines.

We spoke about the great Australian RCA EP release and about the fine achievment of th se who made it's release possible - Our Australian friends - Bing looked up and said "Who conducted the orchestra on that session" I replied that it was Bob Thompson - "Fine fella" said Bing, "Always does a good job"

These were some of the things we talked about and naturally I was delighted to have been with him.

LARRY CROSBY..CORRESPONDENCE

In one of my letters to Larry I mentioned about the talk I had with Bing at the CONNAUGHT HOTEL in London about the possibility of a new Christmas single for the coming festive season. I asked Larry if he would also have a word in Bing's ear about it as well. I also said I had written to SONNY BURKE of REPRISE-USA about such a single and more recordings in general - Here then is Larry's reply;

BING CROSBY-HOLLYWOOD — August 29th. 1967

Dear Leslie;

It is difficult to get the record companies to risk a new Christmas record because the two standards still outsell anything.

Re the Longines records I do not plug them because their sales approach is not good.

Thanks for the clip re golfer Jack Nichlaus.

Best regards (signed) Larry

RETURN TO PARADISE ISLAND

This album on REPRISE R 6106 has now been deleted according to my dealer. There are 12 good songs on this album and nicely sung but the record never seems to get played on the BBC - A friend heard RETURN TO PARADISE ISLANDS at the time of the records release, but myself I've never heard a single Bing track on the BBC - Most people however consider that whoever recorded the album let Bing down very badly On the tracks his voice is covered too much by NELSON RIDDLES Orchestra - ALLEN EVAN'S of the NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS gave it a good write up when he reviewed it.

THAT TRAVELLING TWO BEAT

This album, also deleted is being re-issued by THE WORLD RECORD CLUB in NOVEMBER Label Number T652.

INTERESTING NOTE - A further letter from Larry Crosby reads as follows;-

BING CROSBY-HOLLYWOOD September 11, 1967

Dear Leslie;

You are correct on the Christmas records.

Re Longines - Bing has not done any recordings lately.

Presently he has taken the family to the Canadian Fair.

Our TV Production Unit is down to one show HOGAN'S HEROES. Working on several possibilities.

There is nothing definate on the pictures you mention.

The last "Circle" magazine was quite good, and chock full of interesting information.

Best (signed) Larry

With reference to the above the Christmas recordings, these are WHITE CHRISTMAS and SILENT NIGHT - The mention of the pictures means THE GREAT ST BERNARD and MAD DONGS AND ENGLISHMEN - You'll also note Larry says Bing has'nt taped the Longines songs yet that he personally told me in London Last June 6th he was going to record - Nice to note what Larry says of our "BING" magazine.

Well members, as our next magazine is coming out after Christmas, I would like to take this opportuntity to wish everyone a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR..... yours, Leslie Gaylor.

****

THE 1930's RECORD SOCIETY

Here's a very good reason why YOU should join THE 1930's RECORD SOCIETY - As most members of the ICC already know, the 1930's club is a branch of our major Bing club which runs completely independant of the I.C.C. The Society has just issued it's magnifient 60 page October 1967 issue of the official club magazine THE GOLDEN YEARS, EDITED ENTIRELY by a man fast becoming a legend in Golden Years circles REG BRISTO - copies of this issue can be had by sending 4/6 (50cents) direct to Frank Murphy - intro leaflets are also available - BUT DON'T TAKE OUR WORD - Read what one of the members of the 30's club has to say.

Frank Unwin writes from 37 College Rd, Crosby, Liverpool 23, England.

"I've written several letters to Reg Bristo in connection with the mag, and to submit short articles, but I felt I should also write to you to tell you what pleasure THE GOLDEN YEARS has given me since I joined the Society.

It seems rather ironic that here on Merseyside I was trying for years to get such a Society going, being entirely ignorant that the thriving 1930's RECORD SOCIETY was already in existance. I had an article in the LIVERPOOL ECHO suggesting such a society but had little response, and, lo and behold, I learned of your (and now mine) society through a chance remark in TETLOWS VINTAGE RECORDS GUIDE.

cont on page 10

Frank Unwin continues;-

"I have become one of the most enthusiastic members, and I am enthralled by the absolute feast of nostalgic information about all our old favourites in the mag, and written by such talented and knowledgable contributers. The pleasure this has given me is immense, and I am delighted to find that thousands upon thousands of people share the same interests as me, and that I am not one of a tiny group as I thought at first. There must be countless other thousands who, if they knew of our Society, would jump at the chance to join, and I feel sure that there is a rosy future for the Society. I have wondered how we could publicise it a little more on the Merseyside for instance.

I had quite a large selection of 78's before I joined the society and my greatest interest has always been in the great dance orchestra's, especially ROY FOX, LEW STONE and AMBROSE in this country, and TOMMY DORSEY and GUY LOMBARDO in America. I have taped about 300 dance band records, and only this week-end I have been busy taping my BING CROSBY records.

I never fail to listen to any big band which broadcasts nowadays and last night I enjoyed hearing the one and only HARRY LEADER in BAND OF THE WEEK, although I feel that the modern dance orchestras are so pathetic compared with those of halcyon days. Melody is still, I'm afraid, a matter for derision, although things are improving in this respect. I am at a loss to understand who our present day dance bands seem determined to drown a pleasant melody with horrible screeching brass.

I feel that Reg Bristo is doing a wonderful job for the magazine and we all appreciate all his hard work and his helpfulness and courtesy when answering letters He seems to be a great chap. At the same time I would like to thank you, too, for the wonderful job you are doing as promoter. I wonder whether you fully realise the tremendous pleasure you are giving to the likes of me? I trust the society will go from strenth to strenth - Kindest regards, Frank Unwin.

FRANK UNWIN does'nt know his letter is appearing in "BING" but we know he will be delighted his letter has been put to such good use - ie, to tell other enthusiasts about the 30's club - because the 30's group is promoted solely by the ICC, members of the ICC can take great heart at the continual upward swing this club is making - because of it's obvious unlimited potential it commands an audience far exceeding that of the ICC and enquiries are coming in at an astonishing rate from countries as far apart as Germany and Japan - we are also very grateful to CONCERT RECORDING of America for a suburb plug in their magazine - hich is now bearing fruit - YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF TO JOIN THIS CLUB.

*****
*****

PAUL HOLLINGDALE..... by ..... STAN WHITE

Some ten years or so ago, a friend of my brother was in the R.A.F. One Sunday when home for a weekend, he called on my brother Maurice to see whether he would tape some jazz material for him, as he wanted to take it back to the R.A.F. camp at Shinfield Park for broadcasting over the camp broadcasting system. This was done, and in particular I remember a programme was produced featuring the New Orleans band of Edward Kid Ory. This sort of thing went on for a little while.

Now a group of us here in Rothwell who were interested in recording began to ask Roger Panter (the R.A.F. man) for more information on this camp broadcasting service, also he was to find out whether the person in charge of the broadcasts

would be willing to take any different material from us.

We next received a recorded message from the person in charge of the broadcasting at Shinfield Park, Cpl Paul Hollingdale, a man with a proper B.B.C. voice we thought afterwards at the time. Paul said he would like a variety of programmes making up each week on tape, and it would be a good idea for these to be posted to him. He would send tapes back for new programmes each week, and in fact a proper schedule was arranged.

It also turned out that Paul exchanged some of the programmes with other R.A.F. camps, so that certain programmes were reaching thousands of R.A.F. personel.

Several of us used to work on certain programmes such as THE BENNY GOODMAN STORY, THE LOUIS ARMSTRONG STORY, THE JACK TEAGARDEN STORY etc etc these were hour long stories done for the Jazz fraternity each week. Other programmes were made up by individuals, for instance, a regular weekly feature was called SPOTLIGHT, this was a 30 minute programme featuring a different star each week. One week we went to record a live jazz session for the weekly jazz session during which we were able to interview a young man named JIM DALE, who later turned out to be a regular broadcaster on CHILDRENS' FAVOURITES etc, and of course a recording artist.

I was personally responsible for producing a 30 minute BING CROSBY programme each week, and sometimes, Paul Hollingdale would record his own introduction to the start of the session when the tape arrived at his end. This was done to give a bit of variety, and also because I am not exactly a B.B.C. type when it comes to speaking. We called the programme BING CROSBY'S HALF HOUR and a good variety of material used to be featured each week. Eventually Roger Panter was demobbed and he continued to work on the programmes at the Rothwell end. After about 2 years we had word from Paul Hollingdale that he would be leaving Shinfield Park and that we would have to work through the chap who followed him. Well it turned out that Paul had been very keen on this sort of thing, and that once he had gone they were soon discontinued. But it was fund whilst it lasted, and in particular, the jazz and Bing Crosby programmes received much praise

Some time later, I happened to be listening to FORCES FAVOURITES one Sunday with the usual hook up with Germany, and the voice of the announcer in Germany seemed very familiar to me, it turned out to be Paul, who had transferred his services to broadcasting proper, with the British Forces Network in Germany.

Eventually Paul came back to England and took up a position as an announcer with the B.B.C., and he can often be heard announcing a variety of programmes such as ROUND-A-BOUT, BREAKFAST SPECIAL etc etc - he is a man with a wide interest in music, and will often present a well balanced programme, which more often than not includes Bing Crosby and Doris Day, and that type of singer, so his tastes remain the same as in his early days as Shinfield Park. I've no doubt a request to Paul Hollingdale for a Bing record would meet with success, if it is humanly possible for Paul to fit one in, not that he needs asking - he often uses Bing.

END

******

******

"BING" THE TOP MAGAZINE FOR THE CROSBY ENTHUSIAST

BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK???????????

THAT'S WHAT WE SAY!!

It's an expansive claim we know, and we also know that self praise is no recomendation, so to stop us getting really bloated with success we are inviting members to write to us with their really down to earth views on the magazine and also to give their view on improvments - So hows about it - and just to start the ball rolling here's MICHAEL CRAMPTON with a nice little letter and comments to match.

The past two weeks I've been taking a much earned rest from work and during the last few days the last issue of "BING" has been my companion -if I may I will offer my appraisal of it's contents.

(1) The magazine does have about it an air of holidays but this does not detract from it's good value and I shall look forward to the return of the MOVIE FILE.

(2) I enjoyed the extra does of members letters and it has long been known that it is easier to write letters of complaint than to write a letter of praise. The teams efforts seem to be appreciated.

(3) Front cover - I would like to see this one changed, though I appreciate plans are in hand for this.

(4) Editorial - any magazine worthy of it's salt must have it's editorial and I continue to enjoy the summary of the present Bing position with a few other tasty tit bits thrown in for good measure.

(5) General presentation - I appreciate the continueing effort to present the contents of the magazine in the best possible manner, but would appreciate a dash of colour , this has been used to good effect in the past and does relieve the monotany of many pages of black and white (I am not of course referring to the content, but merely to the effect on the eye.

These are just a few thoughts that have occured to me and where the nature is critical they are offered in the best possible taste. If introduced they would, in my humble opinion improve the general good taste of the magazine

EDITOR:
hum'.....Michael, I'm coming down to Leeds to your meeting in November - and at this time I will relieve you of your titles - anyone want a job as a British Correspondent?? - ha ha - seriously Michael, everything you say is right and steps are being taken to remedy where possible some of the points you speak of - Other Members now please.....

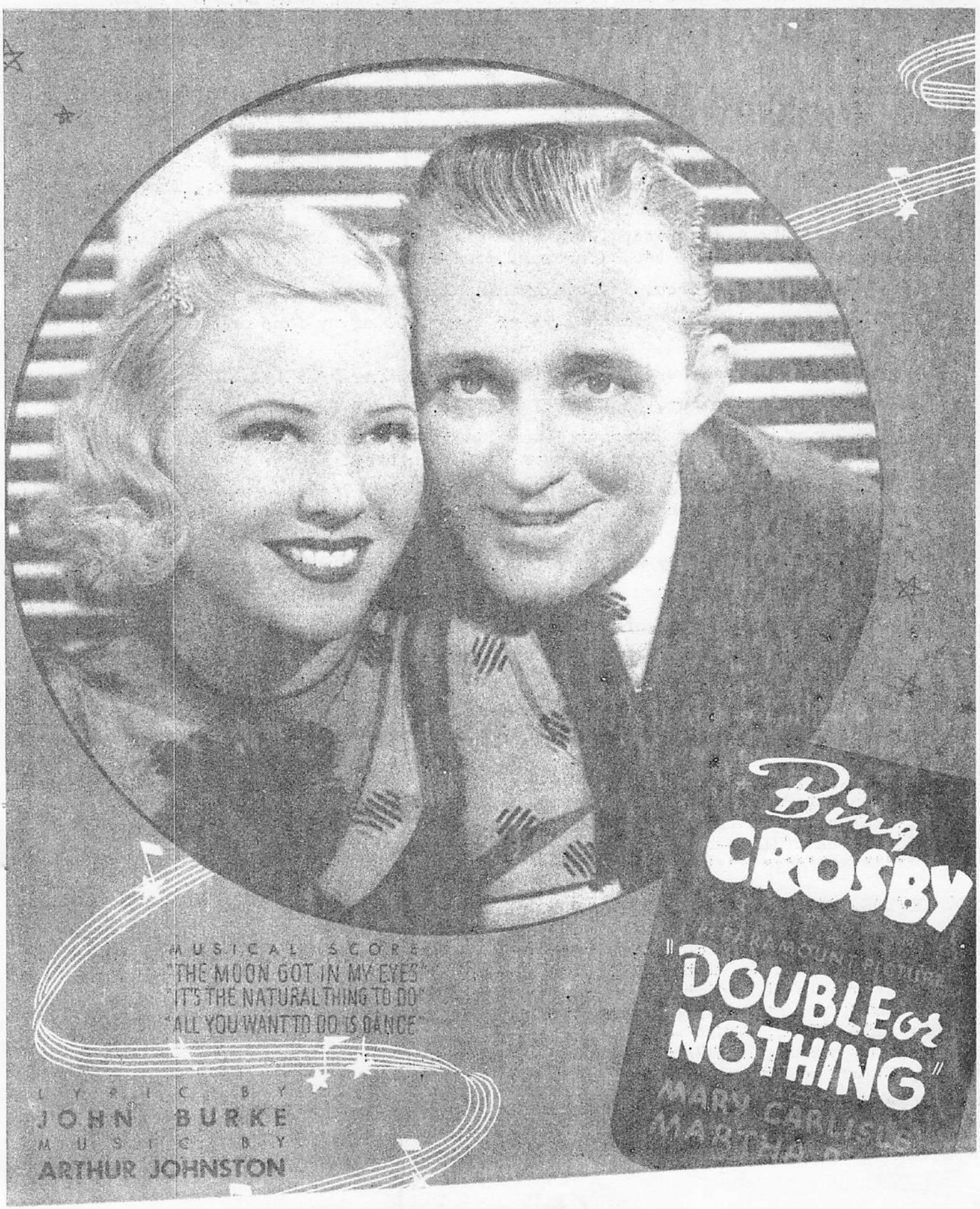
After reading the article by Jack Shaw in the July "BING" I thought the following articles would be of interest to fellow club members

EILEEN KNIGHT
57 Burlington Road
West Bromwich
Staffs
England

Models of BING CROSBY and BOB HOPE in Chocolate and Marzipan have been made by Miss Ellen Parker of Cadbury Brothers. The famous pair are playing DONALD PEERS

cont on page 14

THE MOON GOT IN MY EYES



EILEEN KNIGHT continues
BING AND BOB MAKE A SWEET PAIR AT GOLF

..and TED RAY at golf at Maidenhead on Sunday. Six thousand tickets have already been sold to watch the game and proceeds are for THE NATIONAL PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION fund - The cake will be raffled at the Dochest after the game. The figure of Bing was modelled from a caricature drawn by Lyon of the Evening Dispatch.

One can imagine the dialogue that will go on between Bing and Bob during this golf match - let us listen in;-

HOPE.Look Crosby, I'm on top again

CROSBY.Only because you've got a friend at Cadbury's Eagle Beak., The only friend you ever had too.

HOPE.You and me both grandpa. Say what are you doing down there? digging your grave, about time too, I reckon. You've been dead a long time.

CROSBY.Listen life force. I'm bunkered.

HOPE.Mind your language grandpa. There are 6,000 of my fans around here listening.

CROSBY.The only fan you ever had welshed from Gipsy Rose Lee.

HOPE.Listen to this guy, jealous, I guess , because I steal pictures.

CROSBY.Any picture you ever stole was just petty larceny - why, you lost your way in any Road picture we ever made together.

HOPE,Yeah? now who's lost on the road to Maidenhead? and a guy named Donald Peers waiting to finish this club and ball game. Now there's a guy who really can sing.

CROSBY.Yeah. And Ted Ray waiting, too. Now there's a goy who's a real comic.

HOPE.You getting at me?

CROSBY.Brother you were got at the first time somebody said "Where's there's life there's Hope - Boy were they kidding.

HOPE.Remind me to tell you sometime grandpa that I did'nt know you could'nt sing.

CROSBY.The only thing funny about you is your sense of humour

000000 Re-printed from the BIRMINGHAM DAILY EVENING DESPATCH 1952

****
* The other article sent in by *
* Eileen comes from THE NEWS *
* OF THE WORLD - old issue *
****

NEWS OF THE WORLD - FILM PREVIEW by EDWARD HODGSON

The scene is a criminal court., a voice bays out "Bring in the prisoner" whereupon a 46 year old American with soft, yet searching eyes, a streamlined profile and a languid stance is lodged in the dock. The boys bays again "Harry Lillis (alias Bing) Crosby, you are charged with stealing a film called MR MUSIC at the PLAZA CINEMA, PICCADILLY, LONDON - The prisoner replies "M'lord I throw myself on the mercy of the court, I did'nt mean to steal MR MUSIC, I've never done such a thing before, I just can't understand how it happened M'lord"

After devoting two happy hours of witnessing a performance of MR MUSIC the case ends with Harry Lillis (alias Bing) Crosby being bound over on the understanding that he will never transgress again.

Having probed my memory over the 17 years Bing Crosby has ranked as a top-line star, I can find no previous convictions against him on the count of picture stealing, although it must be admitted that not once has he allowed himself to be robbed of a picture. Perhaps this first lapse from grace was prompted by the fact that recently, through no fault of his own, the pictures hes made have lacked that sparkle of showmanship his name used to guarantee - If you are finding it hard to believe he has never stolen a picture before MR MUSIC then let's think back for a moment to his greatest triumphs.

The "ROAD TO" comedies would certainly have lost the rich cream of their entertainment appeal had there been any attempt at picture stealing by Bing, Bob Hope or Dorothy Lamour. The same unwritten law applied to THE BEELS OF ST MARY'S, co-starring Bing and Ingrid Bergman. And naturally it never occured to a comparitively young trouper like Bing to flich any thunder from that old trouper IRVING BERLIN in whose songs, success was made of such memorable movies such as BLUE SKIES and HOLIDAY INN.

By stealing MR MUSIC, Bing, with one spectacular swoop regains his rightful position as the greatest star the screen offers today, which automatically makes him WORLD ENTERTAINER No 1.

The millions of you who acclaim him for his incomparable crooning and the nonchalant way he ambles through films are apt to let those accomplishments cloud the fact that Harry Lillis (alias) Bing Crosby, is a great actor into the bargain. Study his performance in MR MUSIC - he makes it look so easy, yet I doubt, singing aside SPENCER TRACY or LAURENCE OLIVIER could have brought more understanding and talent to bear on the playing of the slap happy idler who possesses the brilliance of Berlin in the field of popular music but much prefers golf and the girls. He manages to remain the slap happy idler until he encounters that cool brunette NANCY OLSEN, then his batchelor life is bunkered. GROUCHO MARX appearance in MR MUSIC is made worthwhile by this bit of dialogue;

GROUCHO..."There's nothing in the world I would'nt do for you"
BING....."There's nothing in the world I would'nt do for you"
GROUCHO..."Well that makes two people in the world prepared to do nothing for each other"

oooooooooooooooooooooooooooo* END *oooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

CLUB MEETING NEWS

Club members should make every effort to attend this annual get-together at the home of British Correspondent Michael Crampton - The meeting will be attended by many of the club's leading personalities and tapes from leading members all over the world - the programme, a very attractive one, is tentatively on the following lines.

THE DATE	THE TIME
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19th at the home of MICHAEL CRAMPTON 1 Langbar Square Whinmoor - Leeds 14 tele 642349	3.00 PM

A COVER CHARGE OF 2/6 per head is requested in order to assist with the catering arrangments

(1) INTRODUCTIONS AND TEA ON ARRIVAL
(2) TAPE MESSAGES FROM DISTANT FRIENDS
(3) BING IN THE 1930's
(4) MEMBERS REQUESTS BY MICK DRURY
(5) RAFFLE
(6) SOME 78's NOT ON LP
(7) DISCUSSION TIME
(8) THE CLUB'S PLANS AND ACHEIVMENTS SO FAR, BY OUR GOOD SECRETARY (Michael's description - not mine ...)

****

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THIS GREAT MEETING - PLEASE ADVISE MICHAEL NOT LATER THAN THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16th

CASE FOR THE DEFENCE

(An address to the jury - with apologies to E.G.Marshall)

You have heard the charges, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, which have been brought against the defendant by some of his fellow members of the I.C.C. These charges arose from an article he wrote and which appeared on page 32 of the Club magazine dated April, 1967. The accusations, contained in the subsequent July issue, are of his being harsh (p.17) but gentle (p.14), sarcastic but sugary (p.42), dull (p.42) but exciting (p.17), out-of-order (p.13) but nothing wrong (p.17), short of material (p.42) but excellent, enjoyable and worthy of study (p.17). There appear to be enough paradoxes here, ladies and gentlemen, to satisfy the most fastidious without mentioning that a Mr. Gaylor found the aforesaid article so dull it incensed him to mild attack. Apropos Mr. Gaylor's comments you may form the opinion that he commenced reading the article only from the second paragraph and that he missed an excellent opportunity to keep quiet. His arrogance in using an outworn, ethnical metaphor may not have escaped your attention - a metaphor which should ensure for him an enthusiastic welcome to South Africa but one which, in view of the Californian race riots, he may care hastily to retract if ever he contemplates visiting Mr. Crosby on that worthy gentleman's home soil. But I am sure that the insult to any coloured members was unintentional and attributable only to cliche addiction. He criticises, with every right, the defendant's own choice of words but however charitable one may feel towards him it is difficult, on the evidence of his own contributions, to persuade oneself that he is properly qualified to judge vocabulary or, if it comes to that, syntax, spelling, grammar or style. You may think, too, ladies and gentlemen, that Mr. Gaylor's informative articles might be improved with a few of the "frills" he apparently abhors and that a leavening of wit and humour might make the recital of facts, old and new, a trifle more palatable. Incidentally is it not a little reckless for such an ardent admirer of Bing Crosby to criticise a "frilly" vocabulary? I draw your attention to Exhibit "A" (copy below). I respectfully suggest, members of the jury, that anyone who describes a vocabulary as both sarcastic and sugary, ipso facto, condemns his own and reveals an alarming ignorance of the difference between chrystalline carbohydrate and caustic. Nor does it appear that the accuser is any more capable of distinguishing between sarcasm and irony. You will forgive me then, I am sure, if I prefer to accept the appraisal of the teacher of English rather than that of Mr. Gaylor.

It is suggested by the same gentleman that the defendant is bereft of constructive material. It is true, as my client confesses, that when he receives a letter from Bing or Larry Crosby or speaks to Bing Crosby on the telephone (as he did recently) or meets him, he no longer issues immediate despatches. It is equally true that the defendant's activities in the Crosby field are carried out with a somewhat higher degree of anonymity than Mr. Gaylor's but Mr. Gaylor has never had to suffer the handicap of modesty. All this the defendant confesses and yet, ladies and gentlemen, I submit that his very detailed card index, his self-compiled Crosby biography, discography and films book, to say nothing of his large record and tape collection, comprise sufficient information as to render unlikely the possibility of his running short of material for some little time.

Mr. Gaylor was not mentioned in the defendant's article but seemingly considered himself an object of stricture and found a cap large enough to fit. The article did, however, express a personal view that Mr. Bristo's contributions could be improved. The author offered suggestions because he considers that Mr. Bristo writes well enough to be encouraged to do even better and that his articles are worthy of constructive criticism. Three words, ladies and gentlemen, have now endeared Mr. Bristo to the defendant. On page 30 of the July issue you will find these three simple words which, in their context, reveal much to a receptive mind. The words, "at some risk", reveal at once an acknowledgment of the criticism and, more subtly, an acceptance of the right to criticise; above all they show a sense of humour. There is recognition of the simple fact, overlooked by many, that

publication of an article is an invitation for critical comment. Just as Mr. Bristo recognises this fundamental right so does the defendant recognise that an author has the corollary right to adopt or reject any suggestions offered. In the present case Mr. Bristo by using the sub-head "Ramblings" implies rejection but nevertheless the defendant wishes me to say that he is amused and is willing to let Mr. Bristo buy him a drink at any time.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, to summarise let us be clear that any article appearing in the magazine is properly open to criticism by all members. The defendant states categorically that he has not the slightest objection to any review of his own contributions nor will he take umbrage at opinions expressed although he prefers, of course, that criticism should be informed and without malice or abuse. His own articles, always written with sensitive people in mind, are never more abrasive than "Fairy" liquid; for them to be otherwise would be entirely contrary to all his natural inclinations. I would like you to ask yourselves, members of the jury, whether anyone has seriously challenged the several suggestions made by the defendant. His laudable purpose was an attempt to raise the level of the magazine as he hates the thought of any possible deterioration to that of a teen-age "pop-rag". He himself finds it extremely difficult, and is unwilling, to lower standards set up in a lengthening life-time. The recommendations he made remain valid: no one can seriously oppose a plea for better quality, refinement and improved presentation. Should we be content with anything but the best for any venture associated with the name of Bing Crosby?

The defendant is flattered by the suggestion that he could possibly teach anybody anything and no doubt Mr. Sternberg will now draw the obvious conclusion from the outcome of the article. It was, however, gratifying to find that the article provoked some interest and yet it is sad to realise the futility of trying to explain something to those who will never have the capacity to understand. The defendant is especially pleased that his article may be of some value to the Israeli children, to whom he sends sincere good wishes, and however poor his efforts may be they will at any rate make a big change from Shakespeare, Wordsworth and Lamb. Ladies and gentlemen, the defence rests.

EXHIBIT "A"

Extract from "CALL ME LUCKY" by Bing Crosby

"Often I came up with "le bon mot" or "le mot juste" as the case required. In college and high school I'd been fascinated with words and their meanings. I still get a kick out of words. I may use them badly but I enjoy trying them for size. As a writer I'm an amateur who, left to his own whims, leans towards alliteration and other fancy devices to make what I write sound unusual and give it zing. As part of this semantics kick of mine I've read everything I could get my hands on, some of it good, some bad, but now and then I revert to normal and toss in a slang or jive word."

IF I HAD MY WAY

****
* "FILMGEN"
* a new feature by RON BOSLEY and J. N LURIE
****

FILM REVIEWS - FROM THE 30's

"GOING HOLLYWOOD" reviewed in American PICTURE PLAY - March 193[illegible]

Marion Davies-Bing Crosby-Fifi Dorsay-Stuart Erwin-Patsy Kelly-Sterling Holloway.

The best picture Marion Davies has offered in a good while, is further enhanced by Bing Crosby whose performance is delightful, with that gentle mocking quality which won him new admirers in COLLEGE HUMOUR, and in this he sings even more. Nor does Miss Davies give short measure of her talent. In fact, she adds graceful and expert tap dancing to her accomplishments, whilst her peruasive sense of humour is present all along the way. The picture is a lavish song and dance affair which gets out of hand towards the end and achieves a rather desultory finish, but it is excpetional until then.

It's all about a girl teacher in a seminary who falls in love with a crooner, gives up her text books and decides to follow him to Hollywood where he is to make a film with his fiancee, a French actress, played by Fifi Dorsay. If you knowMiss Dorsay you will realise why he shuns her sy thetic attractions for the more golden virtues of Miss Davies. It is all good humoured, spectacular, and rather charming, and Miss Davies must be given extra applause for giving Mr Crosby opportunities equal to her own, instead of subordinating him to second place.

"GOING HOLLYWOOD" reviewed in SCREEN PLAY - April 1934

Those who insist "Once a crooner, never a screen star" will receive a terrific shock when they see Bing Crosby in GOING HOLLYWOOD. Aided and abetted by the charm and pulchritude of the captivating Marion Davies, radio's best baritone puts on a perfcmance that the Barrymores, Howards, Gables, et all, might well be proud of.

"MISSISSIPPI" reviewed in MOVIE MIRROR - July 1935

Bing Crosby, a Northerner, is in love with Joan Bennett, a Southerner. There's a misunderstanding, and he becomes a singer on W C Fields old river showboat. No matter when or where Bing sings, it's a treat.

SHE LOVES ME NOT reviewed in MOVIE HUMOUR - November 1934

Bing Crosby-Mirian Hopkins-Kitty Carlisle-Edward Nugent.

A night club entertainer witnesses a gang murder committed, flees, gets as far as Princetown, where she finds refuge, much to the chagrin of three collegiates who do their darnest to keep it away from the police and the Dean. Withal, an hilarious farce that should by all means not be missed.

THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN EXTRACTED FROM F MAURICE SPEEDS "FILM REVIEW" of 1947/48

A vintage BOB HOPE story;-
"You know where the road to Singapore is.....you take the road to Mandalay and turn right at the second baritone after LAWRENCE TIBBETT."

Results of the Bernstein Film Questionaire - WHO ARE YOUR FAVOURITE MALE FILM STARS?

(1) JAMES MASON (2) STEWART GRANGER (3) RAY MILLAND (4) ALAN LADD (5) BING CROSBY
(up to 30 male stars were listed)

THE "MOTION PICTURE HERALD" ANNUAL POLL

The American exhibiters chose as their top ten (1) BING CROSBY
British exhibiters chose top ten (British stars (1) JAMES MASON
and as the top ten British and
American stars.....) JAMES MASON (2) BING CROSBY

===END===

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Your views makes the news.....

EILEEN KNIGHT, 57 Burlington Rd, West Bromwich, England
I've just bought a couple of Bing's L.P.'s, HOLIDAY IN EUROPE, which is very good, I like MOMENT IN MADRID, very catchy. And I also bought BELOVED HYMNS. I can't praise this enough, excellent record, Bing makes old and much loved Hymns sound so beautiful. I think the beauty is in the way it's done with sincerity and modesty, and sung as only Bing knows how - wonderful.

MICHAEL SOPER, 205 Mynachdy Rd, Gabalfa, Cardiff, S Wales
Received the current edition of BING along with the Australian EP and the ICC blazer badges of which I think are great. I must now measure for a new blazer to display this 'classy' badge of which I shall be proud to show off.
At the time of writing I'm playing the Ace of Hearts album BING SINGS FOR CHILDREN, could you tell me who is playing the organ on LITTLE LADY MAKE BELIEVE...
I note in this issue of BING, Eileen Knight's letter, that you sent her Bing's address, well months ago I wrote requesting Bing's address, but think you must have overlooked the matter, so I'm asking again, in fact it might be a good idea if you printed it in BING so that other members could write too, there must be many of us who would like to write to Bing to express our pleasure for all the wonderful years of entertainment he's given to us.

MR A LUCAS, Dorny Cottage, Manor Avenue, Greystones, Co Wicklow, Eire.
I was listening to your recent broadcast on TALKABOUT and having been a Bing fan all my life, thought I might now do something about it - Can I join your club or is there a local club here (I am 17 miles from Dublin) I have a few records of Bing and would like to get some more, I cannot find those I want in Dublin, vintage songs for example, although I have a few of these on various albums.

RONALD DANIELS, 8 Winsham Str, Elizabeth West, South Australia 5113
As a Crosby enthusiast I am interested in any magazine or society dealing with Bing and would like to know what Bing fans are doing in England these days, and also in other countries.

JIM KIDD, 405 Ogilvy Avenue, Montreal 15, Canada.
Just a short note to say how much I enjoyed the first issue of BING magazine to come my way, when's the next one due anyway?
I'm far from being a Crosby collector, who can be one with Jean Paul Frerault sitting across the river from me with virtually a complete collection. My one claim to Crosbyana is LANIN'S "IF I HAD YOU" on Okeh which I picked up for a dime in the backwoods of Barbados many years ago. I only picked it up because I like the tune! To use an old cliche..imagine my surprise when I first played it.
In any event, here's a puzzler for you Crosby addicts, when you have it solved I'd like to know the story.....As a collector I'm well aware of the extreme rarity of Brunswick 20106 by VICTOR YOUNG, "FACE THE MUSIC MEDLEY" - Paul (naturally) has a mint copy and I've always enjoyed hearing such a rarity whenever I've visited him - I have recently aquired some Brunswick catalogues from the 30's. Brunswick 20106 complete with description "with Bing Crosby" is listed as available in the October 1936 catalogue and STILL AVAILABLE in the September 1938 catalogue, six years after recording and supposed withdrawal. Surely the disc was still available..Why it's rarity, and why the story of it's rejection shortly after issue? The catalpgues by the way are US issues, altho the Canadian ones are probably similar if not identical - Comments?

FRANK ASHURST, 9 Lichfield Str, Pemberton, Wigan, Lancs, England
I received the magazine and record safely, thanks a lot. The record is all you said it was and I am thrilled with it. THE MUSIC OF HOME is my favourite track followed closely by ALOHA MEANS I LOVE YOU, these are the type of songs I prefer to hear Bing singing. I do enjoy the livelier ones of course, but I enjoy the slow ballad best.

ALAN GRAY,5 Eastonville Gdns, Ilford, Essex, England.
Thank you for the latest copy of BING and the RCA record, everything I had read about the record is certainly true, Bing is in marvellous voice, particularly on THE MUSIC OF HOME track. Listening to Bing made me wish he had recorded more often during the past years. Perhaps it's not too late, evennow. I enjoyed reading about members favourite recordings and I must say the task of finding one above all others is almost impossible, but that if I was really pressed I would choose the period 1932/3 and the marvellous I'VE GOT TO PASS YOUR HOUSE - it will be interesting to note whether other members select this recording. I am gradually adding to my collection and consider each new addition money well spent.

AGNE JEPSON, Östra Vallgatan 39, Lund, Sweden.
Now one year has passed since I did subscribe to BING so I think it's time to renew the subscription now. I would also like to subscribe for one year on THE GOLDEN YEARS, starting with the latest issue. I hope it's as good as BING and I'm certain I won't be dissapointed.
I will not say much about BING since all have had so much to say about it before, Let's just say it's a great magazine which has managed to give me new interest in Bing and his records. During the last year I have bought about 10 LP's and15 78's with Bing which is more than I have ever done before during one year - thanks to BING magazine I've been able to get the re-issues - The record shops in Sweden do not store Bing's records so one must order them. They claim there's no interest in Bing's records and of course my answer is get some records and people can see what they can get, but still the shops are reluctant.
From this you can understand that I do appreciate the record reviews in BING, Then Mr Phythian's articles are often very interesting, and since I'm first a jazz-fan and JACK TEAGARDEN fan. I did really appreciate his writing about BIRTH OF THE BLUES - Unfortunately I've never been able to see the film.
Then of course the visits of Bing to England are of great interest, since one can't read about it in the Swedishpapers. However I think Bing could come to Sweden, since he's so fond of travelling and fishing, I think Sweden could offer him some great days, but of course this will never come true - To the bestof my knowledge Bing has never been to Sweden.
Then of course Reg Bristo's columns are very interesting, but it's a bit hard to read through when knowledge of English is limited. Then there's always many other interesting articles in BING.
Of the many songs Bing ought to have recorded, one of my favourites ia SPRINGTIME IN THE ROCKIES. From the Swedish radio I've heard some songs with Bing, this is no diary sincel've not had time to listen regularly, but now and then, A COUPLE OF SONG AND DANCE MEN, SAM'S SONG, PLEASE, IF I HAD YOU, and FROM MONDAY ON, the last one with three different takes of the Bix solo.
Mr Phythian and Mr Bristo have talked about reference to Bing in other records. If I do not hear completely wrong there's a line on a record with TOMMY DORSEY and CONNIE HAINES on WILL YOU STILL BE MINE (17-2-1941) The text in whole is about even if - everything unexpected should happen, like GARBO giving interview, and G-MAN HOOVER is out of trace, a boy would love his girl - The line about Bing reads WHEN CROSBY'S HORSES WIN A RACE - thus that would be quite unexpected according to the songwriter. I don't know how Bing's horses got allong in 1941 but I think the lines funny.....

MORE MEMBERS LETTERS ON PAGE 22

FRED REYNOLDS, 69 Heathmere Avenue, Yardley, Birmingham 25, England
Thanks for your letter of the 22nd and for the stencils enclosed. I am enclosing my article for the next issue and hope Les Gaylor has enough sense of humour not to mind having his leg pulled a little. None of the things I say in this or any other article is ever meant maliciously and I try to inject a little humour in an endeavour to show that I do not take myself too seriously. I will never complain about what others think of me, if they find me dull, sarcastic or interesting, it is their impression and I accept the fact - thank you also for THE GOLDEN YEARS booklet which certainly is informative and, for old timers like me, nostalgic. I am enclosing a cheque for membership.

BILL BELL, 39 Scrogg Rd, Walkergate, Newcastle on Tyne, England.
The EP and the mag arrived safely - the disc is a real gem - When things seem quiet on the Bing front, the mag arrives and is just like having an injection. I eventually landed the BELOVED HYMNS album - great!! Kathleen and I recently saw Bing in ROBIN AND THE 7 HOODS at the Stoll, Newcastle - really enjoyed the maestro, and some great singing. - On the Decca album BING SINGS FOR CHILDREN, I was puzzled as to who sang with Bing, then along comes the mag with all the information, Connie Boswell and Frances Langford.

ooooooooooooooo

Our sincere thanks to all the contributers to this first section of Members letters - I know from the many letters received that other members views form an important part of the club magazine - so it goes without saying that the more letters re receive the happier we are. EILEEN KNIGHT, a sterling member to have on the file indeed - thanks Eileen for the regular press clippings you send along. MICHAEL SOPER, the organist on LITTLE LADY MAKE BELIEVE is EDDIE DUNSTEDTER sorry about Bing's address, the reason this does'nt appear at all times in the mag is to comply with a request from GEORGE O' REILLY with whom I agree we should'nt be always writing to Bing, who as you can guess is a very busy man - I seldom write to Bing more than twice a year - however I'm sure Bing would appreciate a few lines from any member from time to time - write to Bing at 780 North Gower, Hollywood California, 90038, USA. To Ron Daniels, welcome to the growing band of ICC registered members from down under, we'll look forward to hearing from from you in time for the next journal (January 25th 1968). Many thanks to JIM KIDD, yes we know of Jean Pauls activity, he's one of the Worlds biggest Crosby men and a firm ICC booster - it's over to the club experts for a reason on FACE THE MUSIC MEDLEY - AGNE JEPSON we're delighted to have your support both for the ICC and our sister club THE 1930's RECORD SOCIETY - thoroughly enjoyed your lenthy and most newsy letter and glad to note that in spite of the serious limitations your collection is coming along fine - if we can be of service, just yell out. to FRED REYNOLDS - your letter above was very much appreciated - we're all having a ball in our great Bing club these days - the future holds great things for everyone and as editor of this magazine, it hurts me to see great personal friends differ, though I must learn to recognise the right to criticise - it's one of my failings I suppose that I'd rather not start these sorts of auguments going, fearful always of the ending results - happy days to both Les and Fred - be mindful always that we on the outside need your valued opinion.

* END *

THE PETER WILSON COLUMN

Just after I received the last issue of BING, I also received a letter from the Isle of Wight - it was from Leslie Gaylor who was replying to my enquirey about the LP I referred too in the last issue - I'ts always interesting to hear from other Bing fans.

On Sunday August 27th I watched Bing's film HERE COME THE WAVES on BBC I - I know it was an old film, but frankly, I thought it was only poor - the fact that Bing sang only three songs made it a film easy to forget - We only had to wait a fortnight for our next Crosby film on TV, THE ROAD TO HONG KONG, well, we've all expressed our opinions about this latest "Road" adventure - so enough said.

I was interested in the article BING'S BEST RECORDS, but I find it difficult to make a list, because I like them ALL - However, I think this little lot will take some beating.

(1) WHITE CHRISTMAS (2) SILENT NIGHT (3) COME ALL YE FAITHFUL (4) PLEASE (5) STARDUST (6) GALWAY BAY (7) PENNIES FROM HEAVEN (8) HOME ON THE RANGE (9) JUST ONE MORE CHANCE (10) EASTER PARADE.

Every one a million seller, but I could go on adding to it.

Now here's something interesting for Bing fans to think about. How many songs has Bing sang in FILMS without wearing a hat or some other type of head gear - I myself can only think of two films . When he sang I LOVE YOU SAMANTHA in HIGH SOCIETY,and when he sang LET'S NOT BE SENSIBLE to JOAN COLLINS in THE ROAD TO HONG KONG - I think this is interesting because he always seems to be wearing a hat whenever he sings.

Well let's now have a look and see what the "Old Groaner" has beem singing lately. hat or no hat.

JULY 4. SHOE SHINE BOY. radio
8. Brief appearance in Bob Hope's ALIAS JESSE JAMES. ITV TV.
18. THE PREACHER. radio
18. NOW YOU HAS JAZZ
20. A MINSTEL SHOW. radio
25. Half hour of Bing records. radio
30. THE ROAD TO MORROCO. radio
31. YOU'RE THE TOP. radio
AUG 1. Half hour of Bing records. radio
18. SHOE SHINE BOY. radio
23. THE ROAD TO HONG KONG (excerpt) ITV TV.
27. HERE COME THE WAVES. BBC TV I.
SEP 16. NEW ORLEANS. radio
17. THE ROAD TO HONG KONG.ITV TV.
25. PISTOL PACKIN MAMA. radio
27. SWINGING ON A STAR. radio.

Quite a list to be going on with, and I guess that's it for another spell, how time goes by - Here's wishing all the members of the club all the best till next time, Best regards.....PETER WILSON.

****

OOOO

BIRTH OF THE BLUES

ALAN LURIE AND RON BOSLEY present THE BING CROSBY MOVIE FILE

BIRTH OF THE BLUES

JEFF LAMBERT.....BING CROSBY
BETTY LOU COBB.....MARY MARTIN
MEMPHIS.....BRIAN DONLEVY
AUNT PHOEBE COBB.....CAROLYN LEE
LOUEY.....ROCHESTER
BLACKIE.....J CARROL NAISH
LIMPY.....WARREN HYMER
WOLF.....HORACE MACMAHON
RUBY.....RUBY ELZY
PEPPER.....JACK TEAGARDEN
DEEK.....DANNY BECK
SUDS.....HARRY BARRIS
LEO.....PERRY BOTKIN
HENRI LAMBERT.....MINOR WATSON
PIANO PLAYER.....HARRY ROSENTHAL
SKEETER.....DONALD KERR
MAIZIE.....BARBARA PEPPER
GRANET.....CECIL KELLAWAY
KINEMA MANAGER.....CHARLES LANE
.....JOHN GALLAUDET
JEFF (as a boy).....RONNIE COSBEY

Screenplay by HARRY TUGEND
and WALTER DE LEON
Musical supervision and
Direction, ROBERT EMMETT DOLAN
Musical adviser, ARTHUR FRANKLIN
Song "The Waiter, the porter
the upstairs maid, JOHNNY MERCER
Director of photography, WILLIAM
C MELLOR ASC
Art direction, ERNEST FEGTE and
HANS DREIER
Edited by PAUL WEATHERWAX
Costumes by EDITH HEAD
Sound recording by EARL HAYMAN
and JOHN COPE.
Associate producer, MONTA BELL
Produced by
BUDDY G DE SYLVA
Directed by
VICTOR SCHERTZINGER
New York Premiers
THE PARAMOUNT THEATRE 10-12-1941
British general release, Jan 1942
British 'U' certificate
Original running time 86 minutes

To ensure due notice of BIRTH OF THE BLUES, the Paramount Press Agents arranged a feud, MEMPHIS v NEW ORLEANS. Each city laid claim to the premiere on the basis of each being the true birthplace of the "blues". As everybody expected, the result was a draw, and there was twofold publicity for premieres in both cities.

The director of the picture, Victor Schertzinger, originally a concert violinist, became one of Hollywood's most successfull dispensers of popular music on the screen and was responsible for "Roads" to "Singapore" and "Zanzibar" died suddenly whilst preparations were being made for the premieres.

BING CROSBY FRANK CAPRA'S "RIDING HIGH"

****
****
****
****
****

RIDING HIGH - Production No10053 - Running time 112 mins
British 'U' cert - Screenplay by Robert Riskin, with
additional dialogue by Melville Shavelson and Jack Rose.
Based on the short story BROADWAY BILL by Mark Hellinger

Directors of Photography.....George Barnes and Ernest Laszlo
Art Direction by.....Hans Dreier and Walter Tyler
Assistant Director.....Arthur Black
Edited by.....William Hornbeck
Costumes by.....Edith Head
Set decoration by.....Emile Kuri
Process photography by.....Farciot Edouart
Sound recording by.....Hugo Grenzbach and John Cope
Musical Associate.....Troy Sanders
Vocal arrangements.....Joseph J Lilley
Make up by.....Wally Westmore
Music direction by.....Victor Young

Produced and Directed by.....FRANK CAPRA

Western Electric Sound

Songs;- IT'S A SURE THING) SOMEPLACE ON ANYWHERE ROAD) SUNSHINE CAKE) THE HORSE TOLD ME) by BURKE and VAN HEUSEN

CAMPTOWN RACES) by STEPHEN FOSTER
WHIFFENPOOF SONG) by POMEROY, GALLOWAY and MINNIGERODE

New York Premiere ... PARAMOUNT THEATRE April 10th 1950

****
* CAST *
****

DAN BROOKS.....BING CROSBY
ALICE HIGGINS.....COLEEN GRAY
J L HIGGINS.....CHARLES BICKFORD
HAPPY.....WILLIAM DEMAREST
PROFESSOR PETTIGREW.....RAYMOND WALBURN
RACING SECRETARY.....JAMES GLEASON
LEE.....WARD BOND
WHITEY.....CLARENCE MUSE
POP JONES.....PERCY KILBRIDE
JOHNSON.....HARRY DAVENPORT
EDNA.....MARGARET HAMILTON
WHITEHALL.....PAUL HARVEY
EDDIE HOWARD.....DOUGLAS DUMBRILLE
J P CHASE.....GENE LOCKHART
MITHILDA EARLY.....MARGARET HOSHELLE
HENRY EARLY.....RAND BROOKS
ARTHUR WINSLOW.....WILLARD WATERMAN
MARY WINSLOW.....MARJORIE LORD
HAMBURGER MAN.....IRVING BACON
JOE FRISCO.....HIMSELF
JOCKEY WILLIAMS.....FRANKIE DARRO
ERICKSON.....CHARLES LANE
JOE.....DUB TAYLOR

and GUEST STAR OLIVER HARDY as THE LUCKLESS PUNTER

MICHAEL CRAMPTON
PRESENTS
"BRITISH REPORT"

Dear Crosby friends,

I am at present on a training course at the Electricty Council College in Surrey, I also plan two weeks holiday to follow this and my endeavour can only be by way of an apology this time.

I am pleased to announce the date of my meeting which is to be held at my home on SUNDAY OCTOBER 19th (FULL DETAILS ON PAGE 15) - We have made similar arrangements to last year, as these proved very popular and I would appreciate you contacting me as early as possible so that I can make the necessary domestic and catering arrangments, and also compose the MEMBERS REQUEST TAPE - I feel sure the arrangments being made will be equal too., if not better than last year and I extend a general invitation to all members to come along.

If there is anythung which you feel should be included in the agenda and it is a practical idea, please let me know and I will do my best to include it in the programme. I do hope incidentally to be able to produce any request record on tape this time.

I did say my effort would be a minimum this time because of necessity and I take leave with a promise to be back in full swing for the January 25th issue.

Always your friend, Michael.

****

"CROSBY SHOPPE"

British Isles successful bidders will be required to supply a strong box

Your offers are invited for the following Bing Crosby items - Please send all offers direct to Frank Murphy by the closing date Jan 1st 1968 using the number in the left column only.

RECORDS (all in EX cond unless otherwise stated;

BRITISH BRUNSWICK's

1..05016 Personality/Experience
2..05033 To see you is to love you/Moonflowers(non Bing)
3..04035 The merry go run around/The Road to Bali
4..05173 Getting to know you/I whistle a happy tune
5..05203 Cela M'est egal/The magic window
6..04339 You're in love with someone/Top O'the morning
7..04108 The old oaken bucket/Clementine
8..04984 I'LL si-si ay in Bahia/The live old tree
9..04749 Here ends the rainbow/Quisas quisas quisas
10.04568 Play a simple melody/I did'nt slip Iwas'nt pushed I fell
11.04339 Top O the morning/You're in love with someone (same as 6)
12.The Isle of Innisfree/At last at last - 04900
13. 04613High on the list/Life is so peculiar
14.04761 Your own little house/Bonne Nuit
15.04553 Sams song/So tall a tree
16.04998 Riders in the sky/Careless hands
17.04100 I dream of Jeanie with the light brown hair/The roas of Tralee
18.04643 The old chaperone/I do do do like you
19.04114 Hasta Manana/Siboney
20.04035 Far away places/Tara tal lara tal la
21. 04760In the cool cool of the evening/Misto Christofo Columbo
22.04337 Oh tis sweet to think/The Donovan's
23.04921 Two shillelagh O' Sullivan/That tumbledown shake in Athlone

24.04292 Let's take the long way home/The waltz you saved for me
25.04483 Sure thing/Someplace on anywhere road
26.04420 Mule train/Dear hearts and gentle people
04534(27)Home cookin/Katrina
28.04119 Blue/After you've gone
29.04425 How can you buy Killarney/Eileen
30.04139How it lies how it lies how it lies/Everywhere you go
31.04981 Zing a little zong/Maid ofGuadalupe(non Bing(
32. 04070If you stup you're too on the Moon/Once and for always
33.01155 Just one more chance/Were you sincere
34.01608 Home on the range/The last round-up
35.02973 Too romantic/The Moon andthe willow tree
36.02849 I'm falling in love with someone/Gipsy love song
37.02270 Empty saddles/I'm an old cow hand(VG)
38.02761 All sweet mystery of life/Sweethearts
39.05033 To see you is to love you(single sided pink label dem' sample.
40.05035 Merry go run around " " " " " "
41.05182 Mademioselle de Paree " " " " " "
BRITISH CAPITOL
42.14645 True Love/Well did you evah - WANTED IN 45 RPM.

43.LA8714 10"LP Bing Crosby sings the songs from THE COUNTRY GIRL/LITTLE BOY LOST
44.LA8740 10"LP Bing the early 30's Vol I
? 45. ---- 10"LP Soundtrack excepts by Bing Crosby -Count your blessings/Pennies from Heaven/ In the cool cool of the evening/Couple of song and dance men/ Too Romantic/ Swinging on a star/Road to Morocco/I promise you/Sailor Beware
? 46. ---- 10"LP Soundtrack excerpts by Bing Crosby - You don't have to know the lang ge/Zing a little zong/Silent night/White Christmas/Experience/Sunshine cake/Moonlight becomes you.

47RCA-Aust'20402 ALOHA MEANS I LOVE YOU/The music of Home/The new ashnoleans/ it's a great day.
48 ---- 7"EP BING IN THE HOLLYWOOD PALACE - CABARET/Sunrise Sunset/Strangers in the night-That's life/Them were the good old days

DISCOGRAPHIES

49 THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY VOL ONE - 1926-1934
50 " " " " " " TWO - 1935-1943
51 " " " " " " FOUR- 1951-1966
52 " " " " " THE "V" DISC SUPPLEMENT
53 THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY C CLE-BLAZER BADGE-unique map of the world design.

==========

Pressure of space has limited the auction for this issue, it is hoped therefore that space will be availalke in the next issue to bring you further interesting items on the Crosby scene.

****
****

MATERIAL URGENTLY REQUIRED

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT MATERIAL IS ALWAYS URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR THE PAGES OF THIS MAGAZINE - PLEASE SEND YOUR ARTICLES, PEN PAL REQUESTS, AUCTION LISTS ETC ETC DIRECT TO THE EDITOR OR TO YOUR COUNTRIES CORRESPONDENT - REMEMBER "BING" IS YOUR MAGAZINE AND IT NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT AT ALL TIMES.

CAN YOU TYPE STENCILS??????

BECAUSE OF INCREASING PRESSURE OF WORK, YOUR EDITOR IS SEEKING THE HELP OF AN ASSISTANT EDITOR OR MEMBER/S WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP IN PREPARING EACH ISSUE OF "BING" FOR ISSUE - CAN YOU HELP?? PLEASE.....

THE FRANK MURPHY COLUMNS

Don't miss this opportunity to subscribe to this years appeal for the ICC's Christmas present fund for BING AND KATHRYN - Closing date for donations British Isles NOVEMBER 20 - OverseasDEC10

In a recent letter I suggested to REG BRISTO that instead of popping up all over the journal I was going to try a new format for my bits and pieces and endeavour to group them all under the above heading - I hastened to assue Reg that I was'nt about to try and compete with his highly successful format - and back came Reg' reply that it was me who suggsted the original title of THE REG BRISTO COLUMNS - I was relieved that after all I was'nt stealing from our boy Reg, so here goes with what I hope will be a successful idea after all;

BING ON THE ANDY WILLIAMS SHOW

Although I've had the tape for quite some time, and enjoyed the contents very much, especially IN A LITTLE SPANISH TOWN, I was thrilled to bits on seeing Bing appear on this show - My mind went back immediately to a controversy that raged in the club back in the early 50's - it was after the release of the MGM movie MAN ON FIRE - we had quite a mailbag in those days auguing the pros and cons of whether Bing should sing or act only in films - nowadays we don't get the chance for the maestro does neither - But the general vote was that Bing should definately sing more in films, but it was something that STAN WHITE said at the time that came to me whilst watching this TV show - Stan said "JUST SEEING THIS GREAT MAN UP THERE, EITHER ACTING OR SINGING IS REWARD ENOUGH FOR ME" - how right Stan was - You know they've been writing Bing off as a has been for many years now, but for the really genuine Bing fans, Bing on the Andy Williams Show was a real treat and a pleasure of immeasurable enjoyment not to be missed, The show, recorded in 1966 certainly justifies the remarks by LESLIE GAYLOR on page 4 of this issue - Les quite rightly talks of "Bing's Might and Status" - No-one, but no-one will ever knock the maestro in my book and any Bing fan worthy of the name would say the same - this does'nt mean of course that everything Bing does is beyond critisism, of course Bing has beenassociated with a number of unsuccessful records etc but with the way things are now going and the barbaric sounds we have to listen too if we now bother to turn the radio on, both John Maughan and I are convinced that today even ON THE SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET would sell a million copies if re-issued, and this is one of the bum-Bing's of all time.

CREDITS FOR THIS ISSUE OF "BING"

In this spot I'd like to pay tribute to just a few of the people who bother to lend such sterling help at editorial time - there's no question about it, we have the strongest group of helpers we've ever had and first I'd like to thank LEAN PAUL of CANADA for supplying the sheet music covers for this issue, I'm very pleased with the copy we've got for the photo reproductions - also ALAN LURIE and RON BOSLEY who supplied the actual proofs for the MOVIE FILE photo pages, these were alresdy mounted and ready for stencil run off - in future Alan and Ron will also be typing the reading copy to go with the photo pages - a wonderful gesture I told REG BRISTO I could handle 15 pages if he could manage it - HE DID besides sending me 60, yes 60 typed stencils for THE GOLDEN YEARS magazine - how does one acknowledge such assistance, to say thanks is so very inadaquate, but there it is Reg, the biggest"thanks"I can say.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR BING AND KATHRYN:

As is customery in the club, each year we make this annual appeal to those members who like to send a donation for our arnual Christmas gift for Bing and Kathryn, please send your donation to me as soon as possible and not later than NOV 20 - For the benefit of overseas members the list will stay open until DECEMBER 10th A full list of contributers, details of the gift and other expenditure will appear in the Jan 1968 issue of "BING"

I suppose one of the biggest kicks an editor can get is to receive letters and articles or comments on the magazine and of course about Bing, who in our case is the sole reason for our doing the job anyway - As I have always said, members comments etc are really the main part of our Crosbyana and as always your views form, for me anyway, the most important part of our BING magazine, not only is my mailbag usually filled with a goodly share of the above, it does show that we all have a great deal to learn and share from the common bond the club ties us under - I feel the following heading and it's contents will bear this statement out;-

INTERNATIONAL MAILBAG

News of another record label would not generally be of much interest,, but when that new label features Bing, then we taken immediate notice - ALAN LURIE of Manchester, ENGLAND passes on some news of great importance, ie CBS are pressing a new label HALLMARK and among the first batch of releases due out in NOVEMEMBER featuring all top artists - they've gone to the very top and included Bing - the price of the new albums will be 12/6 (USA approx 2 Dollars) a bargain indeed - No titles are avilable for this page, but we expect news direct from CBS in time for pressdate.....The name is JOHNNY JONES, the place NORTHERN IRELAND and our boy Johnny has again been very busy on behalf of the ICC - this time involving more important addditions to the club service - Watch out for news in the next issue of CLUB TIES, WALL PLAQUES and a few other ideas which are at present ticking over in Johnny's mind - Johnny asks me to mention the excellent co-operation he's been receiving from Mr Baxter at Yorks, England, who will manufacture these items for the club.....from ISRAEL, our great buddy SAMUAL STERNBERG keeps in welcome touch and I always like to re-print Sam's letters exactly as he sends them - "Yes, received this week July issue of BING and now again your kind letter which I'll keep in my album with the other photos. It was lovely of you to spare for me a true picture of you and the great singer with part of his family. You should be proud indeed to meet all these interesting people personally, only imagine the maestro himself - I'll treadure it verry well. Allow me to step aside on this occasion and put a few words over my intimate interest in Bing. For years now on I developed a special interest in the voices of great human success like actors etc - IT IS NOT WHAT YOU SAY OR SING, BUT THE WAY YOU DO IT - I think there is no other explanation to the unbelievable success almost global those lucky achieved. I started to think it over with ALAN LADD'S career who was no great actor but gain fame almost overnight, Now Bing belongs to the same category, but much more aLift and above. I am happy to feel that so many of the ICC feell the same as I do - that gives much hope and courage to believe in my feelings, too. As long as we concen - trate on this aspect there is, I believe - no place for despair. Perhaps on the contrary, the need of people to unite with a balanced voice like this of Bing will return sooner than one guesses. It belongs to a nature way of healing always to be recommended at. It is unimportant if one is fullly aware of this kind of wishes (inner feelings) Who knows, may not be too long from today the star of Bing will again shine with the same success - we should not forget the complex backgrounds of our times which stirs our nerves and tempo - still I hope and wish these days will be ours - When time permits I must put my ideas more precise and correct - Will not conclude before noting how much I appreciated last issue (finished overnight through) with a sincere welcome to you for all your efforts as I know you are striving quite hard to see these leaflets to see light. We are with you always - The best wishes to you and everyone at home and thank you so much - Friendly, Samuel -

I don't think anyone writes a letter with more feeling and sincerity than Sam Sternberg - a loyal and true friend indeed, thanks also Sam for the photo of the TOMB OF RAHEL.

Also noted are the comments of MAX REID "Have just received my July copy and look forward to a few evenings of good reading" - Max is having a new house built "down under" and his temporary address will be care of his parents home, 55 Durrant St, North Brighton 3186, Victoria, Australia.....from BELFAST in NORTHERN IRELAND comes the splendid news from JACK OSBORNE that we've enroled another "Murphy" in the club - it's an especially warm welcome to Patrick Murphy of Belfast - as Jack so rightly says - "He must be a good-'un' with a name like that - (of course.....)

cont overleaf

****
* continueing *
* THE frank murphy COLUMNS *
****

.....

Have you read the REG BRISTO COLUMNS yet - like me you'll be saying how does he do it - and to think when I wrote to him asking if he could handle 15 pages for this issue he wrote back "I suppose I'll think of something"....that's SOMETHING. .....BRIAN PATTINSON of Dunstan, ENGLAND, a great plugger for the club writes in to say he feels like ROCKEFELLERwith his new car badge from the ICC - the badge is attracting plenty of attention say's Brian - incidentally Brian by all means drop a tape in and I'll be happy to dub off Bing's wonderful tribute to MICHAEL HOLLIDAY from the BENEFIT SHOW and congrats on the continual plugs at the record shops etc - using headed notepaper from the club Brian is continually writing all over the place - I know because I get the replies, and one that pleased me very much came from the largest Newcastle on Tyne stockists - part of which read;- "AS YOU MAY REALISE WE ARE VERY SHORT OF SPACE FOR DISPLAYING SLEEVES BUT THERE IS A STEADY SALE FOR BING CROSBY'S LP'S INCLUDING THE ACE OF HEARTS SET TO WHICH YOU REFER - this reply shows that these people do take notice - if only more members would write..... Some interesting news for LESLIE GAYLOR from GRAHAM READE of SOUTH AUSTRALIA - "Les Gaylor, in the light of his experiences with the BBC, might be interested to know that I recently had a look through the local ABC library and found they still had most of their Bing 78's going right back to MISS ANNABELLE LEE and CHRISTMAS MELODIES etc and they still play them in their collectors corners"..Grahan asksrif it would be possible to have Les' address, certainly, write to Les at 114 MEDINA AVENUE. NEWPORT ISLE OF WIGHT.....got to include LONDON in this section and who better to represent the Capitol than BERT DAY who we are especially delighted to welcome back to the fold and thanks Bert for the wonderful tape of the BING,PHIL duet on THANKS, I hear there's some behind the scenes action going on regarding this title and members of the ICC can be assured if there's anything 'cookin' we'll be there - also Bert I appreciated your including the PIRATE RADIO commercial item for charity from the maestro - the beauty of owning a tape-recorder is that you never know what going to turn up from some unknown source.....Mention earlier of MICHAEL HOLLIDAY reminds of a letter recently received from that greatBritish collector JOHNNY JOYCE, Johnny writes,- "I was one of Mikes many friends before he ever made the big time. It's funny you take everything for granted in life - while Mike was with us I never recorded anything from the radio or TV, thinking that Mike would be about for years and that anytime would do for this - Now I regret this" - and so do we Johnny - and if any member can help Johnny obtain tapes films and any unusual items on Michael Holliday including the commercial records MARRYING FOR LOVE and DOWN BY THE RIVER, he will pay top price for these - Incidentally Johnny, did you know that when Mike returned from meeting Bing in the States, I think about 58/59, he told me he had done an 8mil colour film with Bing, clowning around etc and that the club could borrow a special copy he had made - we never got round to taking advantage of this offer, and I wonder what became of that film - perhaps STAN WHITE can throw some light on this. JOHNNY JOYCE's address by the way is 16 The Square, New Invention, Willenhall, Staffs, ENGLAND..... According to information received from our PUBLICITY CHIEF, down there in Kent ENGLAND, BOB ROBERTS. in a letter dated OCT 3, LARRY CROSBY advises Bob that "Mrs Crosby's book should be out soon - they figured on the fall" - this is great news Bob and will be welcomed by the club members. Those members of the ICC whp also participate in the long running TAPE CROSBY will be most interested to learn that in the next issue of BING, FRED REYNOLDS is to do an article all about the tape - I've long maintained that the contents of TAPE CROSBY are far too valuable to be solely confined to those of us lucky enough to be able to participate in such a fine venture - Fred knows my feelings on this score and am sure he will present a fine article showing the many variations that leading collectors and Crosbyites have on this tape.....On a recent tape from CALIFORNIA, USA, that legendary PARAMOUNT man FRANK STEINER was relating to me some anecdotes about some of the stars he's worked with - you'd be surprised at the way some behave and one star in particular has earned Frank's vote of dissaproval - our policy of no scandel etc etc etc means we don't say who, but Frank passed on a gem of a story which consolidates even more the legendary status of Bing's

consideration and thought for others - It happened way back in 1933, during a strike of studio technicians at the PARAMOUNT STUDIOS in HOLLYWOOD - Frank and a group of the boys were hanging around the studio canteen when in walked Bing, who was working on a movie at the time, on his way out of the canteen, Bing paused at the group including Frank and said, "Hi boys, any news on the dispute","No" they replied - whereupon Bing turned round, returned to the bar, threw a ten dollar bill on the counter saying "Keep the boys in beer for the rest of the afternoon" - Frank Steiner says Bing will long since have forgotten this event, but I wonder, and needless to say with the value of 10 dollars being a great more than it is today, the boys, according to Frank had a very happy afternoon.....Another story comes to my mind, and this one nearly 30 years later shows that Mr Crosby never lost that careful thought for others - this story comes from our EIRE Correspondent GEORGE O' REILLY, who is also probably Bing's closest associate on this side of the World - It was 1961, and Bing was returning to England following a highly successful visit to Eire. At Dublin- Airport a large crowd had gathered to say farewell to Bing and as the Crosby party, which included George, made their way through the airport gates towards to VIP lounge, a young man stopped Bing and asked if he could tape an interview - Bing apologised saying there was'nt time as his plane would be taking off shortly after he had said his official goodbyes - However it was learned shortly afterwards that the flight Bing was due to travel on would be delayed for sometime - On hearing this news, Bing immediately sent George to bring that young man to the VIP lounge - It was a very elated young man who later left that airport with a highly prized interview. A wonderful story I'm sure you will agree. Also a very useful point to close this first attempt to group my items under one heading - I hope to be able to improve the format as time passes and you will note there are no record reviews included - there will be usually be these also, but although some very important releases are due both from CBS HARLMARK as advised on page 31 and also from DECCA on ACE OF HEARTS, also the infor to be included in JEAN PAUL FRERAULT'S column to follow this - there's nothing new to panic about, what we don't review in this issue, will be tohand in time for the next, and as you will appreciate, with Bing material that has been hanging around for 20 and more years or a delay of a couple of months or so in it coming to our notice is'nt going to make the slightest difference - In DECCA'S case there would appear to be great elation over the release of some rare material on Ace of Hearts - personally I'm as thrilled as anybody, but I wonder how many copies RARE STYLE will sell - According to one of their experts who attended a club meeting in London in 1960, the Bing's on ACE OF HEARTS have sold approx 3,000 each - a ridiculous figure - but how they manage even this low figure is to be marvelled at when you consider the huge number of shops who don't stock or bother with Bing records - Quite honestly I'd be much more excited if Decca were to streamline their distribution system and ensure that these ACE OF HEARTS releases get the proper publicity - MUSIC FOR PLEASURE have the right idea and when EMI can report that the Recent HARRY ROY MFP sold over 20,000 three months ago and sales of other albums in the series have reached figures as high as 50,000 - Take the recent Decca ACE OF HEARTS "ICHABOD" for example after 4 weeks of walking into nearly every shop in the Newcastle AND DISTRICT, I finally had to order the copy I needed for our Australian buddy KEITH HYDE - the casual buyer of records does'nt and won't order records, he'll buy what is available and very often because he is attracted by the album cover on show in the shop or newstand - I know one get's tired of all this talk of shops that don't stock Bing - But if <u>we</u> don't blow our trumpet - Who will - I'd be very interested in any letters club members would like to send me on this subject in particular - as a guidence, perhaps you would like to send me your views under the following heading.... MY SHOP AND BING RECORDS ------- See you next issue.

****
****
****

*** JEAN PAUL FRERAULT
*** presents.....

CANADIAN REPORT
air-mailed from
QUEBEC.....

First I must tell members I have just purchased an album on the RCA label, VINTAGE SERIES No LPV.545 the title of the album is "1927" and it includes a rare Bing track, which as stated on the album sleeve, is previously unissued - Take 2 of MISSISSIPPI MUD/WHEN I LEFT MY SUGER STANDING IN THE RAIN.

I have also received recently from the LONGINES SYMPHONETTE 2 LP's under the title HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN including two tracks by Bing, PENNIES FROM HEAVEN and MOONLIGHT BECOMES YOU, a very good album of various artists and the recording is also a very good one - the seond album is called 'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS which includes three Bing tracks HAPPY HOLIDAY, HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS andGGOOD KING WENCESLAS, and they also included at my request an extra LP free with my purchase that included one Bing track THE SONG IS YOU - This album is given free with the purchase of the album THE GREATEST BROADWAY SHOW MUSIC OF ALL TIME

I expect club members will be interested in the news of Bing's visit to EXPO 67 - He was here for 4 days recently with his wife Kathryn and two of the children and the best part of it is that I only found this out on the third day - he had landed at our airport incognito and went to the EXPO as a strictly tourist, nobody knew who he was and where he stay, what hotel etc - I phoned up all over withput success and my only chance to see Bing has faded away once again, the only time his visit was shown was in the paper I sent you previously with the photo of the family having lunch together in the pavilian - I spent two days looking for Bing on the EXPO ground without any luck - I hope to have better luck next time - Here is the French report of Bing's visit that accompanied with picture.

VISITEUR DE RENOM

Le celebre Bing Crosby a visite hier le pavillon du Quebec a l'Expo 67. Il etait accompagne de son epouse et de enfants. On voit ci-dessus la petite famille a une table du restaurant du pavillon

Another press clipping follows , this time in English

BING CROSBY'S VISIT TO EXPO TRULY INCOGNITO

Bing Crosby is slipping unobtrusively around EXPO, on the third day of a truly incognito visit - Yesterday the "groaner" appeared unexpectedly at the U.S. bubble with his wife Cathy and two children - Mr Crosby was very impressed with the display in the U.S. Pavilion as he toured it with his small entourage. But he was side tracked along the way, meeting an old friend of his and President Johnson's, "So" said the PR man, "they discussed policy and just about everything else but the EXPO and the Pavilion - During his stay, Crosby collected press kits detailing the exhibits within the bubble for his children to use in special school projects - Other EXPO-goers have reported seeing the singer at the Czech Pavilion and in the vicinity of the Canadian complex. END of press clipping.

This Monday night October 9th I will be taping a TV drama show of DANNY THOMAS with Bing as a star of the show which is titled THE DEMON UNDER THE BED. This is one of the more dramatic roles by Bing on TV and also in it will be Bing's daughter Mary Frances Crosby, George Maharis, Joan Collins. It's a story about a star who lost his voice and his career - Thank goodness it's only a play because I would'nt want that to happen to Bing - This should be a good show to watch though and I only hope that Bing will come up with one or two songs in the play, though there's no mention of this in the TV guides..

WANTED URGENTLY 100 NEW MEMBERS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE - HAVE YOU A FRIEND WHO SHOULD BE A MEMBER????? WHY NOT ASK US TO SEND HIM ONE OF OUR ATTRACTIVE INTRODUCTION LEAFLETS WHICH GIVE A FULL PICTURE OF THE CLUB.

I am enclosing a photostat of the letter I received from Bing, which I am happy to have, this letter means as much to me as if I have seen Bing in person -

BING CROSBY - HOLLYWOOD September 26, 1967

Dear Jean-Paul,

Thank you for your note. Sorry we did'nt make connections when we were at EXPO 67.

The entire family enjoyed the whole thing immensely. In our opinion, it is one of the best things put together by modern man, and it's a great credit to Canadians and to the people in Montreal in particular who conceived this great exposition.

I'm sonding a picture which was taken in front of the French Pavilion, I believe.

Thank you for your interest and support through the years.

Always your friend,

signed BING

BC:Im

****

"BINGPICS" Order direct from JOHN MAUGHAN

In the last issue of BING we announced the issue of a special set Number 55 comprising of 17 mat finish. photos size 10 by 8 - and although we forgot to tell you what the photos were a number of members have sent in cash and orders for thjs special set - we are very grateful for the obvious trust placed in us here. However, for the benefit of the whole club we must detail this set out further and at the samevtime extend the closing date for orders to allow our overseas members to participate; Will those members who have ordered already please note their order has been filed and will receive attention in due course; DETAILS:-

No 55 Unique set of 17 mat finish photos size 10x8 taken on location and in the studios during the tele-recording of A LITTLE BIT OF IRISH - this set appears by courtesy of GEORGE O' REILLY and is available to registered members of the ICC only - Don't miss this unique set of great action photos of the maestro with many of the stars of the show, DERMOT O' BRIEN, MILO O' SHEA, THE LITTLE DUBLIN SINGERS, KATHRYN CROSBY etc etc -

Price 54/- (8 USA Dollars) prepaid by the (new) closing date JANUARY 1st 1968 - Please note all orders must be prepaid by this date, after which the list will be closed and the offer withdrawn.

****

SALES POINTS FROM DECCA (England)

BING-RARE STYLE: AH 164 (Mono)
Let me look at you...Fatherly advice... Lost in Loveliness...Liza...More than you know...You are too beautiful...Something in common...Look to your heart... Suddenly there's a valley...The longest walk...Sailing down the Chesapeake Bay... The possibilities there

A rare collection of Crosby numbers that will delight his many admirers. Contains a large number of items not previously available on LP and is essential to all devotees of the great crooner.
DECCA PUBLICTY SHEET

"Fatherly advice" with Gary Crosby
"Possibilities There" with Peggy Lee

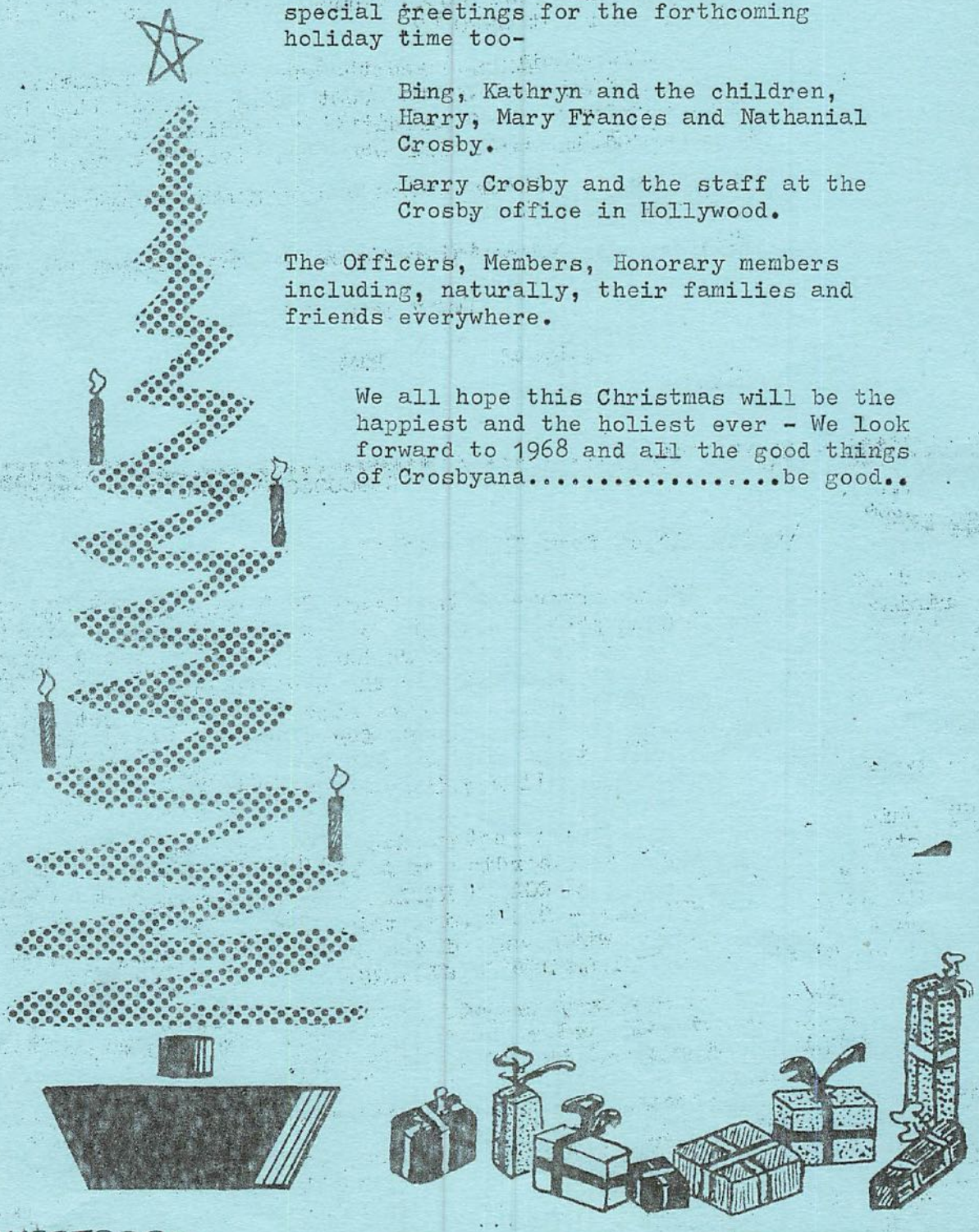
Frank, Alma and the children, Angela, Michael, Janet and Linda Murphy, send special greetings for the forthcoming holiday time too-

Bing, Kathryn and the children, Harry, Mary Frances and Nathanial Crosby.

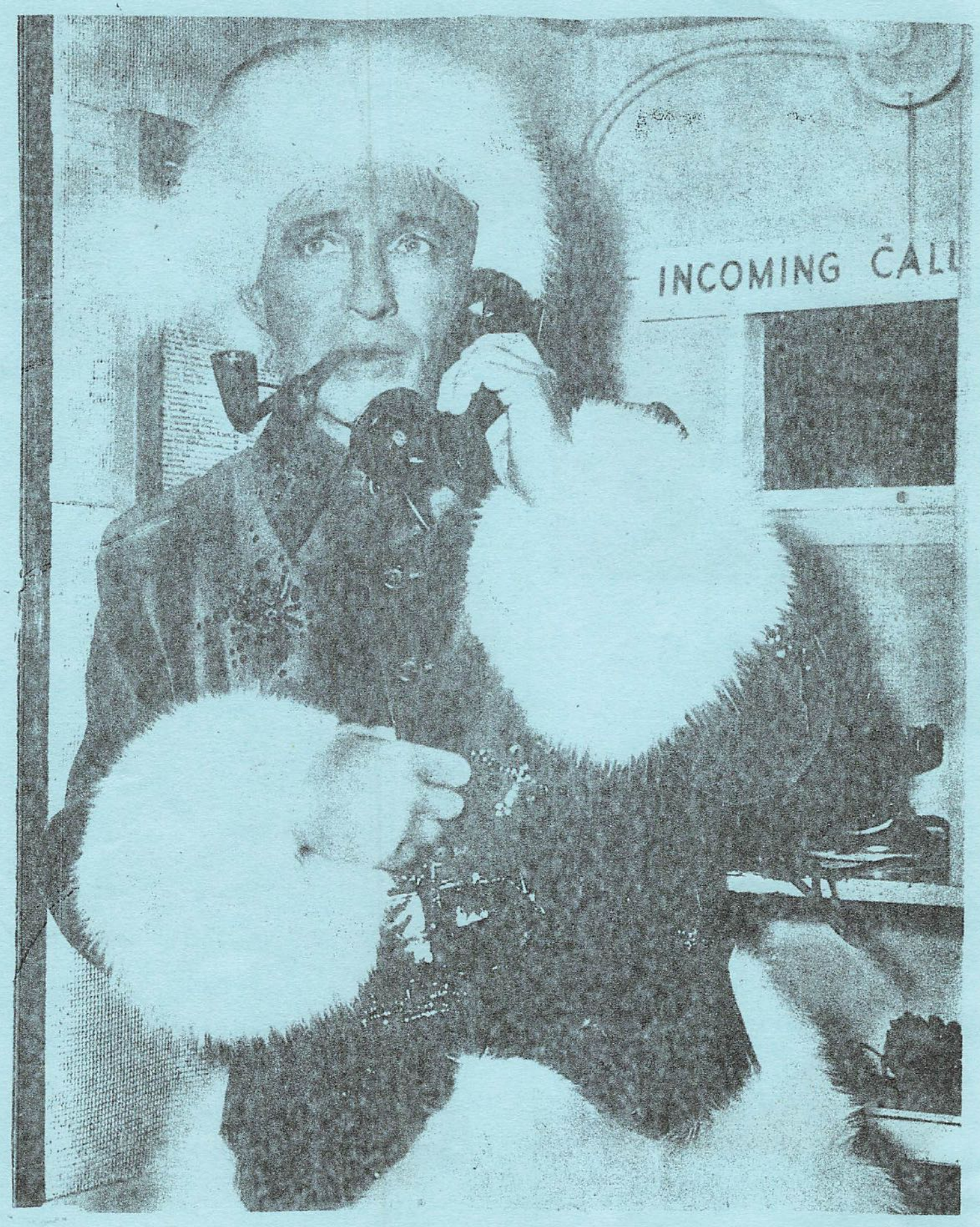
Larry Crosby and the staff at the Crosby office in Hollywood.

The Officers, Members, Honorary members including, naturally, their families and friends everywhere.

We all hope this Christmas will be the happiest and the holiest ever - We look forward to 1968 and all the good things of Crosbyana.....be good..



C.A.WESTROPE


INCOMING CALL

A Merry (White)

****
* ISRAEL...../.....AUSTRALIA...../.....ENGLAND *
* a world apart, yet, through our magazine, united *
* in our own special bond of CROSBYANA..... *
****

You'd have to go a long way I'm sure to find a club that fosters such a wonderful example of team spirit as the I.C.C. - friends all over the world writing to each other and sharing in the unique hobby of Crosbyana - just read the following and you'll get just a brief insight of what we mean.

ISRAEL. August 25th 1967- SAM STERNBERG
"thought I would like to drop you these few words despite the heat which drives everyone to laziness. Bing has surprised us again with his song MR BOOZE in which he teams so well with FRANK SINATRA, DEAN MARTIN and SAMMY DAVIS Jnr. The song is now on the list of our National Broadcaster, and has been requested and played for several Bing fans, which shows that Bing is still in the hearts and memory of many. The song is full gaity and rhythm and gives fine opportunities to Bing to develop his deep and well known voice, especially at the end. But first of all I think Bing is always a wonderful teamer who gives chances to his other participants like a sincere sporter - was it not always part of his personality. By the way could anyone give me the year of presentation and the name of the movie this song was heard?- thank you. I had a lovely letter from one of ICC officers BOB ROBERTS of Kent who was asking information about Bing's record HOLIDAY IN EUROPE, now on sale in Israel - Bob would like to have an Israeli pressing but unfortunately the one I mentioned is pressed in England - so no use - Will write again when good news about Bing comes into my hands -, in the meanwhile I am sending best wishes to the whole ICC" - Sam Sternberg.

AUSTRALIA. October 10, 1967 - JOHN PURCHES
"BING" No 7 has reached me and I have almost finished devouring it's contents - I like to pour over all the articles slowly and deliberately and I'd like to pass a couple of comments which could prove of value - Firstly, In REG BRISTO'S comments on his old copy of BLUE PRELUDE, I concur entirely with his feelings - I really love this oldie and do just what Reg suggests and sing along with Bing - just a couple of critisisms thereto - Reg should have given credit to the composer Gordon Jenkins, so well known as an orchestra leader. As a matter of interest I have this same tune by the great MILDRED BAILEY, a great rnedition, Also, I have it by the ISHAM JONES Orchestra (likewise) Unfortunately the great Mildred and Isham have now passed on. But I never play these records unless I reflect on (a) GORDON JENKINS (b) MILDRED BAILEY and (c) ISHAM JONES. The Ace of Hearts RARE STYLE advice is now well circulated as being available in November and we are hoping to acquire 30 to 40 copies for distribution among collectors here - as far as we know this covers nearly all the unnisued material - I feel A DOOR WILL OPEN is an exception and CORINNE CORINNA as well :- there may be others. - John Purches.

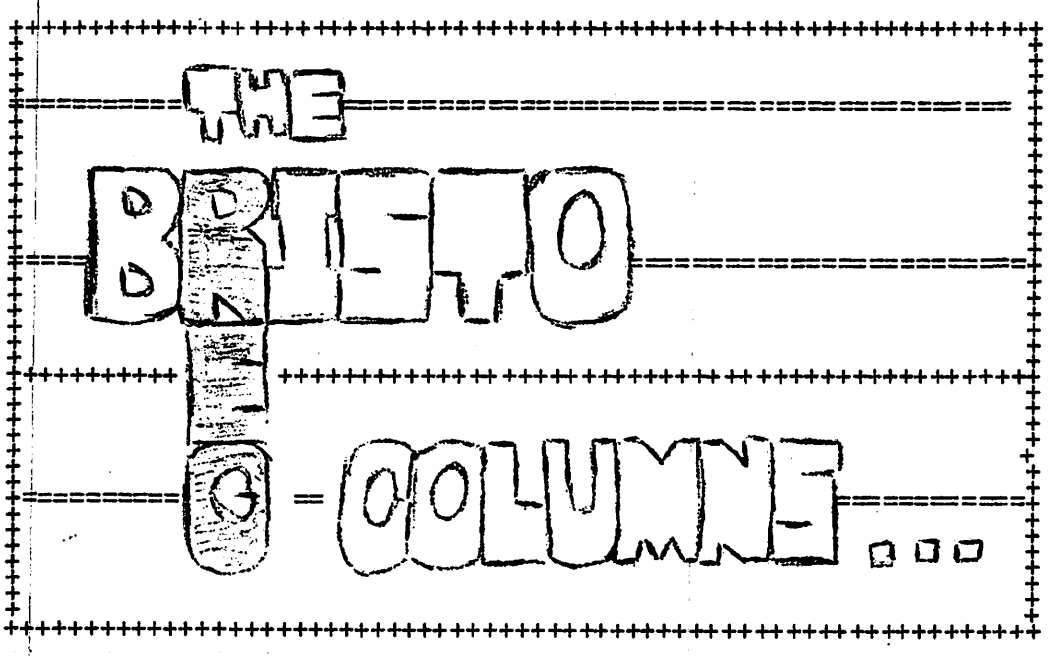
OOO

****

Just two letters - a world apart but so obviously spelling out the unique team spirit of the International Crosby Circle - adding also to these is the special reference by our Hon Vice Pres LARRY CROSBY in his letter to premier collector Les Gaylor - When a CROSBY praises BING, this to us is the highest pinnacle we can ever hope to reach - To Sam Sternberg - thanks for your continued support the Movie was ROBIN AND THE 7 HOODS, 1964 - To John Purches. thanks for a most interesting letter - we've saved the bit about the Bing song Keith Hyde talked about, for the next issue - great stuff indeed and adding to the International bond, we all say a big 'hello' to the following new members of the ICC

MR HARRY PETERS.....AUSTRALIA
MISS M CHISHOLM.....ENGLAND
MR RON DANIELS.....AUSTRALIA
MR JOHN IRWIN.....U.S.A.
MR KEN HOPKINS.....AUSTRALIA
MR ARTHUR WILLIAMS...ENGLAND
MISS K MORHOUSE.....ENGLAND

= I gave it as my opinion in the last issue, that there was a serious and genuine lack of knowledge of Bing Crosby in the present staff set-up of the B.B.C. Its not of world-shaking importance, but an early morning occurrence, a few weeks back, was fair evidence of the point I made.



= The announcer, dee-jay, compere, or whatever he is had played an old record, and said "..... speaking of old songs, what about this one. It was sung by - who was it? - ah yes, Hoagy Carmichael. I'm sure you remember it! Its an instrumental version..."

He then played - The Waiter, and the Porter & the Upstairs Maid.

Now, its a long time ago, granted, and he obviously isn't even a tepid Crosby fan - yet to me that is surprising in anyone aspiring to comment on popular music - but surely some elementary checks could be made on a script before a chap starts babbling rubbish to millions of people. My daughter who was listening looked up and said "Good grief, dad, I thought everyone knew that Bing, Mary Martin and that trombone player - what's his name? - sang that!" Possibly she is in a "privileged" position - and maybe Hoagy Carmichael did sing the song, but surely it is for ever associated with Bing Crosby? My daughter did get Jack Teagarden's name before she left for work!

\+ + + + + + + + + + + +

F I N D I N G 'E M ------

I N B I R M I N G H A M

= It came about that for the first time ever, as a result of the calls of my employment, I found myself spending a few days in Birmingham. This was not without its amusing aspects, for I was due to travel up early on a Monday morning. Having written half a dozen letters on the Sunday evening, I found no oportunity to post them until I detrained at New Street. Hence, although addressed as usual from Cardiff, they bore a Birmingham postmark. The concern expressed in some of the letters I received was most touching, for it seems some of my "column" friends were fearful that I had been "captured" by a certain Birmingham Crosbyite to focibly restrain me from my savourless BING offerings!

= I will concede that I almost certainly started visibly when I espied buses making for Yardley. In fact, I probably quailed, as the saying goes. For a mad moment, I was seized with the idea of catching a bus to Yardley - and presenting to Fred Reynolds a copy of "THE COLLECTED CROSBY CONSORTIUM" by Ah! Bisto. But, of course, such a collection does not exist. And in any event, it was borne in on me that this would be bordering on near-humour from the near-phonetic, so I quickly dismissed this irresponsible urge.

\+ + +

= And as it turned out - and providing my hazy geography of Birmingham is correct - I found myself staying in a suburb almost diametrically opposite to that of Yardley, wherein Fred resides, the suburb in fact of Harborne. A nice little area to which I hope to return.

= Of course, the first thing a Crosbyite does on finding himself in pastures new is to cast a speculative eye over the possibilities obtaining in the record line. Newly developed - or developing - shopping centres are anathema to collectors. Their glossy new shops and elegant, hygienic, markets spell death to the musty old junk-shops which are so often potential "gold-mines" for the like of us.

= So the incredible development of the celebrated Bull Ring (with not a matador in sight!) did not appear to offer much hope - tho' it is true, I did discover such a musty establishment a couple of hundred yards from it, wherein was a fabulous collection of old records, and this did, in fact, yield me a slightly better copy of "Yodellin' Jive" than the one I had. But I realised any hope of "junketing" must reside in the copious suburbs of "Brum".

= I repaired to my temporary accommodation on the first evening, puzzling as to how I was going to cover this vast area in the limited time that was left me in the evenings. And there, as I got off the bus, was a JUNK SHOP, bearing the wondrous name of THE DOWER CHEST! Perhaps I'm not very wise to publicise its name, for no doubt I shall be forestalled in the future. Through the window - for of course, at 6.30 p.m. it was shut - I saw a huge pile of 78's - in covers - that seem to hold infinite promise. I could see it was one of those emporiums that spread itself over the pavement during business hours, for objects were piled into the shop in such a way that it must have been a distinctly dangerous operation to open the door from the outside - it would be impossible to get to door from the inside.

= Alas, it was a "lock-up" shop, so there was no point in knocking. True, a notice in the window advised one that, when closed, telephone number so-and-so should be rung. Now, although something told me that pile of records must be investigated, and great though my frustration was, I couldn't bring myself to take advantage of that phone number. Surely the proppietor would expect me to buy, at least, one of those tatty 3-piece suites after dragging him back to his shop at that time of day?

= So necessarily, I exercised patience... one day, two, three days, and one more day and I would be departing. I even made a "shock" return to Harborne at 3 o'c. one afternoon - BUT I COULDN'T CATCH THAT SHOP OPEN!

= Well, I wasn't returning to South Wales with the picture of that pile of records so firmly fixed in my mind..... I rang the number. To my surprised delight, a voice said it was a coincidence but they were coming round anyway. Fed up with this? Shan't be long now.

= From that pile of 78's I had no less than eight, three of which I had been desperately searching for! They were as old as the Columbia "Temptation/Thanks" - and as new as "Ohio". Everyone was in perfect playing condition - except one, the Columbia I've just mentioned. It offers an interesting commentary on Columbia's report that "Temptation" was their biggest Bing record: "Temptation" on this record had obviously suffered considerable "mileage" - whereas, the great "Thanks" was virtually unplayed! I wonder <u>who</u> has owned that record all these years.

= Another beauty was "Softly She Sleeps My Alice Fair", and again "Strange Music" and "Haunted Heart". So my intuition was right and you can imagine just how delighted I was that I hadn't given up the hunt. The chap in the shop must have been just as pleased - he sold a large cabin trunk to a man who followed me in!

= I harbour the kindest memories of Harborne.

++

= Quite a fair proportion of Bing admirers also have quite a soft spot for AL BOWLLY. I know I have. The collectors of Crosbyana - and I have Keith Hyde particularly in mind - will want the astonishingly cheap M.F.P. album devoted to Al - the Big Swoon of the 30's.

= Perhaps the most momentous thing that Al did when he did finally break away from being, mainly, a dance band vocalist, was to team up with Jimmy Messini, also a quite well-known vocalist of the 30's and early 40's who, in my opinion, never got the fame he deserved. They made a very good and melodious due, both playing guitars - the non A.C. current type, of course. Just when it seemed they were going to be a real power poor Al fell tragic victim to a devilish land-mine in 1941.

= Although the sleeve data does not mention the fact, the famous Bing number "Only For-Ever" is performed on this album by Al and Jimmy - in great style. Their voices blended beautifully and it was certainly an inspiration to get together.

= After singing the chorus once, they proceed to sing the following introduction:

(Cont. over.

"We're going to sing for your Refrain No. 2,
Direct from Crosby we bring it to you,
So if you feel like joining in -
Come on you folk just whistle or sing!"

= To the two-guitar accompaniment Al sings the song again, while in the background Jimmie makes with the "b-b-booo" a la earlier Bing. He whistles too. Altogether its a pleasing rhythmic, melodious performance.

= This doesn't, of course, come under the heading of songs which actually incorporated mention of Bing when written, but is nevertheless, a happy tribute to the master - and a rattling good track anyway.

= Quite apart from this unique piece of Crosbyana, the album is well worth having for its own sake, offering as it does, besides the warm voice of Al Bowlly, the bands of Ray Noble, Mantovani, and Ken "Snakehips" Johnson in some typical, Thirties, dance orchestra arrangements of a dozen highly melodious numbers. By a coincidence, the other British vocalist who gained a name as the "British Bing Crosby" - Denny Dennis, also appears concurrently on a Roy Fox vintage album release. Remember, however, this was many years before Michael Holliday capped the lot! Denny Dennis's phrasing is true Crosby, even if his tones are not, but here again a perfect piece of Bing, straight from the master's book, appears in the Fox arrangement of his signature tune "Whispering". It is delivered by Denny while a duo is singing the song slowly. This is another good nostalgic album at the slightly absurd (!) price of 12s. 6d.

++

= " our readers
"(will know that in something like a week's time a truly exciting album is due, once more, from Decca on their incredible Ace of Hearts label. What is so exciting about this issue, however, is that unlike previous Hearts albums, this one will be almost a completely new album in that it contains items previously unissued. Truly a big event these days in a Crosby collectors life - even if this is in the nature of preaching to the converted.

= I gather the details as to tracks is being published elsewhere in this issue, but I feel constrained to mention here, and to urge all members of the I.C.C. to be waiting in the shops when it comes out - early November. At least, that is the release date.

= Of course, the emphasis I've put on this being a "new" album, should not be taken as a criticism of the other Ace of Hearts albums, which to collectors old and new, have truly been a Godsend.

++

RADIO OBSERVATIONS

= Anyone listened to the new frenzy, Radio One? I'm afraid I haven't. The advance publicity, air-shots hailing it, and the pictures of the dee-jays (sic) frightened the life out of me. I do notice my daughter's transistor is strangely silent of late. Can it be that even the kids are turning wearily from the rubbish?

= I don't know if one must be marijuana inspired to put it over - but I imagine you need to be to listen to it.

= On the credit side, I nearly fell off my typewriter the other day when quite a good run-down on the Mills Brothers suddenly popped up on the old Light Programme Roundabout. Its called Radio Two, I believe.

= This was most unexpected and surprisingly accurate. The records played of the celebrated brothers were the 1930 "Tiger Rag", the 1944 "You Always Hurt the One You Love", the 1952 "Glow-Worm", and finally "Paper Doll", all of which you will recognise as million-sellers. And that was the name of the little programme within a programme. The only glaring omission of the brothers' art was one of their celebrated efforts with Bing, such as "Shine", "Dinah", or "My Honey's Lovin' Arms", probably of course, because allegedly they didn't reach the magical million sale.

= The compere did make one remark that I didn't quite follow: That the Mills Brothers claim that sales of "Glow-Worm" subsequently reached 11,000,000 (or was it "Paper Doll")? The announcer said that if that was true it was the third highest selling record in history.

= Now Paul Anka's infant-prodigy record of "Diana" was once hailed as second in sales only to Bing's "White Christmas". And we now know that Mr. C's "Silent Night" is above

20 millions, so how is "Glow-Worm" third - much as I would love to see the Mills Bros. in this exalted position?

= And on the subject of million-sellers, I'd like to enlarge on a remark I've made before: That I'll never believe "Sweet Leilani" was Bing's first such seller, vide the Daily Mail Book of Golden Discs. I cannot accept that Bing went from 1931 to 1937 without a six, or rather seven, figure record sale. Records like "Please", "Love In Bloom", "June in January", the phenomenal "Pennies from Heaven", the Rex record of "Blue Prelude /Home on the Range surely reached the mark.

= It can, and has been, argued that the proportion of the public owning gramophones, or radiograms, was infinitesimal compared with today. I don't think it was, though, for the old portable, leatherette, case gramophones had a tremendous vogue at about £2 or £3 a time up to the time of the first radiograms.

= In any case, much could be made of the people who bought Crosby records without owning a gramophone or gram. I was one of 'em! That was why half-a-dozen of us would troop down to a friend's house, all with a couple of Brunswicks (or Columbias) in our hand. His father was, if I remember rightly better off than ours and he was, therefore, one of the first in our neighbourhood to have one of the new-fangled, powerful, radiograms. By golly, what a difference it made to Bing on that after the old wind-up jobs! Not that the latter were to be despised: they were better than nothing on which to listen to "Home on the Range" round our own camp-fire when we went camping. But that's an entirely different story.

\+ + +

= Of course, the book mentioned does concede that it is difficult to ascertain sales-figures when most of the big companies did not keep - or at least, issue - figures. So the book can be nothing more than a vague guide, really. And I believe if it hadn't been for our old friend Leslie Gaylor, Bing wouldn't have got the faintly grudging acclaim he did get in the book. I gather a later edition will give Bing a better show. I hope it gives him a better picture, too, than the one in the current edition.

\+ + +

= Those who have this book will have noticed that when the Beatles or Elvis Presley sold a record of, say, 5 million, they got five Golden discs. Yet they award Bing 22 in this book. So really the book isn't all that much value. My impression is that the book was got out to catch the then current pop-made craze at its zenith - and the fact that old-timer Bing still led the field was slightly embarassing. If it could have been glossed over entirely, I feel it would have been. Ah well.

++

+ I seem to have run on a long time without a heading, so here goes:

A YOUNG MAN FROM LEEDS....

= Inevitably if one gets into conversation with any group of people ranging in age from, say, 45 to 65, and the subject of Bing Crosby comes up (and its surprising how often it does), one hears: "Ol' Bing? Greatest of 'em all. No one like him before or since! I've got tons of his records. Used to buy them all!"

= Note the "used to buy them all". Its understandable, in view of what has happened in the last dozen years in the record world. People of that age-group - except of course, for the hard-core fans, have the impression that Bing has long retired - and perhaps they give their old 78's a birthday once a year. One doesn't take these people up. They are sincere, and they mean what they say.....but they are not the true hard-core of Crosbyites.

= And truth to tell, it is a treat to meet someone who does know his Bing, especially these days. The others speak feelingly of "Please", "Love in Bloom", and "Pennies From Heaven" - but they don't know about Great Country Hits, or the Peace Prayer, or the Blessing, and so on and so on.

= So it was an especial pleasure for me - and as it turned out, my wife and daughter - when young Michael Crampton of Leeds, included me in his itinerary of meeting some of the Crosbyites "down South". That it involved a detour from the Isle of Wight was all the more pleasing. He was, apparently, combing business with pleasure, for he had been attending a course in Sussex in connection with his job.

= Mind you, I haven't quite recovered from the four or five nights (mornings?) when we sat up yarning and playing records until 2 or 3 in the morning! And well-informed Michael certainly is. I swear he knows the Road to Bing Crosby, all parts, including V-discs, off by heart! At the age of 24 this is no mean feat. The only edge I had on the boy was that I was at least twice as old - and therefore had the benefit of memory. A dubious distinction, perhaps!

 A YOUNG MAN FROM LEEDS (Cont.).

= There is no doubting Michael's dedication to the Crosby cause, and his admiration of the one and only Bing. I gathered that not a day goes by without him hearing the voice - indeed, I believe he has adapted the well-known apple a day to "a Bing record a day" keeps the doctor away! It may well do that.

= I know the Leeds Michael is our only young member, and I greet them all. Their presence in our CIRCLE is most welcome - and encouraging.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13th, AND I READ THAT BOB HOPE IS TO TOP THE BILL AT THIS YEAR'S ROYAL VARIETY COMMAND PERFORMANCE. THIS SURELY IS EXCITING NEWS - EXCITING THAT BOB HIMSELF IS TO APPEAR AT THIS SHOW, WHICH HAS REGRETTABLY LOST SOME OF ITS FORMER TOP CLASS STATUS OWING TO THE INCLUSION OF SOME VERY DOUBTFUL YOUTHFUL TALENT - BUT TRULY EXCITING FOR US.

SURELY THE QUESTION THAT JUMPS TO ALL MINDS IS:

ARE WE AT LAST GOING TO SEE BING ON A BRITISH STAGE? HAS IT, in fact, already been tacitly arranged?

IT SEEMS QUITE UNTHINKABLE THAT BOB'S LONG-TIME VERBAL SPARRING PARTNER WILL NOT SHOW UP TO "HELP" HIS BUDDY ON WHAT IS BOUND TO BE A BIG NIGHT FOR BOB - AND THE VARIETY SHOW!

IMAGINE "PUT IT THERE, PAL" LIVE!

Still Friday 13th - and at 8.10 p.m. a caller at the door (insurance!) chose this time to spoil my day. "Did I see Bing in the Andy Williams' Show last night?" No, I DID NOT! We are still restricted to Channel 1, but even so I would have seen that if it had meant knocking on someone's door. I just didn't know!! What a black mark. Sheer inattention, I suppose.

= It didn't help when the blasted man babbled on about "Ol' Bing was great - sang Blue of the Night, told jokes about Bob Hope in England....." Oh shut up, man!

++++++ C R O S B Y A N A +++++++++

-----oOo-----

= My collection does not bristle with rarities. In fact, one might call it a mundane collection - except for the salient fact, of course, that no Crosby collection is that. But I must admit with some degree of pride that since the last issue of BING, several items have come my way, quite apart from my successful sojourn in Birmingham, which I've already mentioned.

= For instance, a 10 inch microgroove recording of interviews taken at a Crosby Society meeting has been sent to me by staunch friend Leslie Gaylor, who incidentally, was the last Crosbyite Michael Crampton visited (on the Isle of Wight) before visiting me in South Wales. This meeting took place in 1956 in London at the home of the late (alas) Bill Taylor. I therefore heard at last the voices of many people who so far have been names to me. Stan White for one.

= The whole record was exceedingly professional with interviews conducted by "Walt Lyner"? But easily the most astonishing feature of the record was not that most members spoke very fluently about Bing - NO LESS THAN THREE OF 'EM ACTUALLY SANG LIKE HIM! In view of the

fact that in two of the cases it was"on the spot"and totally without accompanimentthey were extremely good impressions of the Master. The third was a private recording with a small unit, and the guest had sung "You Belong To My Heart" a la Bing in fine style. As the record included a greeting from Bing himself it is a nice piece of Crosbyana to possess - historic perhaps even now, and likely to become more so.

= Secondly, another 10" micro-groove record, which illustrates to me that the tremendous enthusiasm of our Australian friends is now new phenomenon. This record bears a label intimating that it was issued "FOR THE CROSBYANA COLLECTORS' LIBRARY - MELBOURNE, VICTORIA."

= On one side are three really tremendous vintage tracks: "Just A Gigolo"/"I Found You"/ "My Woman". To me, "Gigolo" is the famous track issued here on H.M.V. (to everyone's surprise) in the mid-30's, back with "Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams" if my memory is correct. I don't now possess that unique recording. "I Found You" is considerably rarer - I think I am on firm ground here! It is a really great Crosby performance and I now know it was on the reverse side of "Can't We Talk It Over", never issued here on a single. In each case the accompaniment is by Helen Crawford at the organ - "Can't We Talk It Over" is of course much more familiar, and indeed, appears on the Ace of Hearts Early 30's alnum, volume 1. "I Found You" has a fine lyric, Bing in true early 30's voice, with plenty of "Crosby" phrasing and "filling-in", including whistling. Part of the lyric goes:

"Just when I thought I'd lost everything -
I found you! "

= It is to be hoped that this turns up on an album - and the sooner the better. It may make those who have been single-minded enough to select their favourite Bing record to change their mind. Yes, its that good. Elite collectors please ignore - and forgive!

= The third title, "My Woman" I mentioned in the July BING as having been sung by Al Bowlly on a new Lew Stone album. I said then, also, that I had not heard Bing sing it - and was astonished to see that his name was in the composing team. And now, by sheer coincidence, I have it by the master himself. The wealth of meaning Bing puts into this already meaningful lyric is truly astounding.

= There is only one Bing track on the reverse. It appears to be a dubbing of an American broadcast picked up in Australia, for atmospherics badly affect it. Bing speaks and sings "Just One More Chance", with an entirely different accompaniment to the original commercial recordings. This track fades off with news of the forthcoming Crosby programme, sponsored I believe by Chesterfield cigarettes.

= Then one of our Australian friends announces that the rest of the record will be taken up by two other well-known vocalists, and the late Buddy Clark sings "Lost - a Heart as Good As New" and Dick Todd follows with "Wasn't It You?" - sung in that style of his so highly reminiscent of Bing. Buddy Clark was rated very highly among musicians as a fine phraser, and in fact, I am given to understand his was the voice that "sang" for Jack Haley in his films many years ago. Buddy was killed in an air-crash in 1949.

= This record was a very brave effort by all concerned, but regrettably the records from which the "dubbing" was made were not very good in the first place. But the whole venture must have been most enterprising, and as it turns out, in the case of "I Found You", most valuable.

= And to complete my story of Crosbyana windfalls - I have the No. 1 part of The Road! A rich bounty from extreme good fortune - and extremely good friends!

++

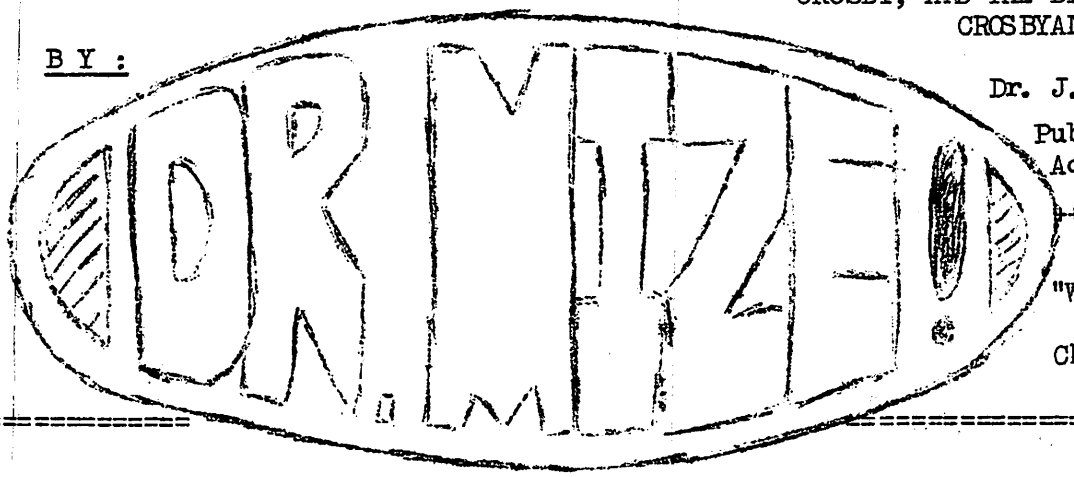
During Michael's visit I played him the Dick Todd record of "Easter Lily/You're In Love With Everyone". He looked momentarily thoughtful, but wasn't otherwise impressed! Does anyone have any knowledge of Todd's history since the late 30's? I would be most interested to hear.

++

Quite definitely the response to my excerpts in the last issue was: "Don't be miserly with Dr. Mize!"

"CROSBY, AND THE BING CROSBY STYLE"
CROSBYANA.

BY :



Dr. J.T.H.Mize.

Published by the Academy of American Music. 1946

By "WHO IS WHO IN MUSIC INC Chicago, Illinois.

= How does one set about trying to tell somebody what it is about Crosby's voice that so grips one? Can you explain that he sings "Blue-hoo" - without sounding ridiculous? Can you describe how it slides onto a note, or how he lets the accompaniment run on - then effortlessly catches it up with an impeccable piece of phrasing? We all try at different times - but its a thankless, unrewarding, task for one cannot really do it!

= I can clearly remember that at school, and indeed, in a church choir, we were always taught to hit the note cleanly. To be bang on it in fact - no slurring up or down to it. To do this was a heinous crime according to the teachers. Perhaps it is with the majority of singers. Not so with Bing. I gather he broke quite a few singing rules in this direction - thank goodness. Somebody was once inspired to remark that "Bing took the sob of the great Italian tenors and put it successfully into a popular song". Not bad at that.

= Incidentally, these are my own remarks: I will indicate when I am actually quoting from Dr. Mize's book.

= Perhaps you know,(or perhaps you even do it yourself,) someone who listens to a symphony concert on the radio, or indeed at the performance itself, with the score spread out on his knees, studying the manner in which the conductor interprets the work, the nuances he places in it, contrasting perhaps with some other noted conductor? Oh yes, there are such dedicated people. I knew such a chap some years ago. He had taught himself the theory - not the instrumental execution - of music for this very purpose. When he retired, his farewell gift was a leather-bound collection of celebrated symphonies.

= Dr. Mize suggests that to appreciate a Crosby interpretation of a song one might study the score, or the sheet music perhaps, of the song itself. But for those who cannot read music, he attempted to analyse some of the quirks and facets of the Bing Crosby style. You will see that he was considerably more analytical and searching that we can ever hope to be! I did, in fact, give the complete list of "demonstration" records Dr. Mize particularly mentioned in the last issue of BING. You will recall that among them was that very melodious effort, "The Waltz You Saved For Me": the following is how the doctor analyses this song as performed by Mr. C:

+"At a very leizurely tempo, organist Erwin Yeo plays a four-measure mood-establishing introduction....Then Bing delivers the lyrics in his legato manner, almost rubato....His vibrato is particularly noticeable on sustained tones such as 'dreams' and 'you', but it is neither so wide nor so rapid as to be saccharine....His tapering-off or dissolving words such as 'dear' is so superior to audible releases. In passing quickly over such anacruses as 'to the' he consistently points up the most important words and tones, as the word 'waltz' here....'You saved' is elided, an euphonious effect....On several occasions, as on 'remember' he demonstrates his scooping the tones, approaching them below their eventual pitch and gliding into them. The accompanists are occupied principally with sustained background chords, but do add little splashes of colour, befitting the mood established and sustained here. The second chorus begins with Yeo's Hammond organ playing the melody, with Sam Koki's Hawaiian guitar entering slightly before the second pulse, and Russ Mangus adding unobtrusive vibraphone tones. For the last two periods, Koki's guitar plays the melody, partially in 'double stops' of lucid thirds and sixths. Bing returns to sing a final half chorus. He takes the interval on 'ly' of 'gently' an octave

DR. MIZE (Cont).

higher...on 'remember' Bing uses an exceptionally rapid vibrato in the middle of the word and then tilts the 'ber'. The guitar glides and slides the final chord, topped off by a single note from the vibraphone."

= If these excerpts from Dr. Mise's book are completely new to you, you will begin to appreciate the status - and rarity, alas - the volume has attained. Obviously, while reading that assessment one must be playing the record to appreciate the tilts, glides, and what-have-you so meticulously noted by the Dr. I hope you'll try it, for it is a rewarding experience. "He consistently points up the important words...." True enough. Listen to the profundity Bing invests the word 'waltz' with - it being the highly important word in the line. You will notice all over again the octave-raised "ly" of Bing's "gently". I told you last time, I believe, that legato means in a smooth manner, as if the notes were all joined together, and rubato means in modified or distorted rhythm.

= Another record dealt with in like fashion was "Day By Day", which Bing say, of course, with Mel Torme and the Meltones. I'm going to commit heresy now by saying that I thought this group went a long way to spoiling this record. To me, the group's harmonies were a little bizarre. Perhaps they were years ahead of their time when this record was made, for we hear plenty of bizarre harmonies today! However, I must also confess that I listened to "Day By Day" with new ears after reading the doctor's analysis, without changing my mind at all about the Meltones - though I appreciated Bing's singing in a new light:

+"On the first phase of the opening section, Bing sings none of the rhythm as written. He anticipates 'day' by more than half a beat or pulse, changes 'by' from an eighth note to a quarter, takes the second 'day' a semi-tone lower, and gently and caressingly slides up to the printed pitch. In the second measure he has no regard for the three on-the-beat quarter notes, but instead 'carries them along' to the third measure's 'more', changing the length of that word from a quarter to a double-dotted quarter. On the fourth count 'and' of the fourth measure, and on its repetition, he takes it a major third lower than notated. Such departures are made throughout the song, and in all of his songs, as will be boldly obvious from consulting the printed music while listening to his personalized versions. AND THEN SINGERS WHO ROBOT-LIKE ADHERE TO THE MECHANICAL REPRESENTATION OF OUR CLUMSY SYSTEM OF NOTATION WONDER WHY BING'S SINGING OF A SONG SOUNDS SO DIFFERENT AND ALIVE".

= I put the above concluding remark in capital letters, not the doctor. It is a very pertinent and discerning observation.

= The appraisal of "Day By Day" is a little more intricate musically than the "Waltz You Saved For Me". Nevertheless, one can appreciate the underlying meaning. So much for the detailed analyses, but here are some further quotes from the book. Naturally, the "newer fella" came in for some mention for comparative purposes. I rather like the following:

"Sinatra phrases with much the same style as Crosby, yet the vocal equipment that God gave Sinatra is not comparable to that of Crosby's. Sinatra employs a "surface" tone and a falsetto more often; Crosby's voice is superior in quality, in roundness, and richness. This is especially aurally obvious in comparing the tone qualities of their lower registers, where Crosby's tones are much 'meatier'."

= Precisely!

Another quote: "Bing has used several girls in his radio programmes as singing partners ....varying from negative Lina Romay, to mediocre Mary Martin, to splendid Trudy Erwin, to superb Connee Boswell."

= Hmmm. What do you say to that? It will be appreciated of course that Rosemary Clooney wasn't in the picture when the book was written.

= A quote within the book itself by voice-coach, Charles Henderson:

"Bing Crosby will render a number like Penny Serenade in its Proper Predominant Mood of impetuous romance, but underneath will always be that off-hand breeziness which the novelist would call his "dominant characteristic."

= This book, as I previously mentioned, is quite unusual in that the footnotes to the pages are lengthier than the actual text. I myself dislike footnotes in a book - they interrupt the chain of reading or thought too much, and in most cases, could have been incorporated in the text anyway. However, Dr. Mize's are particularly interesting. For example, he gives the history of every song analysed: who wrote it, or modified it, who added something, took something away, etc. etc., and this is of great interest.

= He also lists the repertoire of Bing's early musical association, the Musicaladeers. There were, apparently, the following five

numbers:

Whispering.
Jim Town Blues.
Prince of Wails.
My Wonderful One.
Beale St. Blues.

= As these five numbers had to last through a five or six hour dance, they were variously played as quicksteps, waltzes, tangos, and anthing else that was demanded in the way of tempos. Subsequently, they added the following:

Royal Garden Blues.
Wang, Wang, Blues.
Do It Again.
For Me & My Gal.
St. Louis Blues.

= These numbers were copied from 'phonograph' records that were beginning to get extremely popular - and of course, that was a popular practice among not only small, semi-pro. outfits, but indeed, adapted by some of our more famous professional bands.

= The book reveals that the song Bing sang on the very first occasion he stepped out front to sing a "vocal" sans microphone, naturally, was "For Me & My Gal"! A jaunty start, you may think, to a world-shaking career.

= A final quote from the analysis of "Blue of the Night":

"....on 'Day' he scoops the word, attacking it just below pitch, and bringing it upward. ....the final section(of the song) is sung as a recapitulation!"

++++++++++

(With of course, very grateful acknowledgement to Dr. Mize and his famous book).

++

=== A REVISED OPINION ===

=======oOo=======

= You may recall that because some members wrote to me saying how much they disliked the "auction" method for obtaining records, etc., I raffled an E.P. - "Young Bing Crosby".

= Support wasn't exactly overwhelming! As a matter of fact, I described it as a "flop". Well, I have changed my mind, purely as a result of some really delightful correspondence from the lady who won the record, Mrs. Eileen Knight, of West Bromwich. I did realise, of course, that a large proportion of members would have this record, and reckoned that whoever won it would merely be acquiring a spare. Happily, that was not the case. Well, read for yourself:

"Just a quick line to say I received the record today, safe and sound, and to thank you very much. I didn't know until yesterday that I had won the record. I was overjoyed. = As I am only...(No, Eileen, I am not going to be so ungallant as to reveal what you told me of your age - I gather ladies like to keep their little secrets. And if you do not feel inclined to now, perhaps you will in 10 or 20 years' time! Sufficient to say that Eileen couldn't have heard Bing in the late 20's by a decade or two. How's that?)... Bing had been around a good bit before me, but I've been a fan for the past 20 years. (A remarkably early start: R.B.) and I tend to buy his more recent records. I do have a couple of the early ones, "Crosby Classics", on which he sings 'Shine' with the Mills Brothers, and 'Collecots' Classics', and a very early 78 of 'Temptation', but mainly my records are of the last 20 years work. In fact, I had not heard of three of the songs on this E.P.! I have the more recent 'Old Man River' - but what a difference in presentation?

Sincerely,
Eileen Knight!

+ Many thanks to Eileen, for its great to know that yet another young person is so interested. I am particularly glad that my E.P. wentto somebody so receptive to it - and not to someone who first heard it years ago! Oh no - no flop!

++

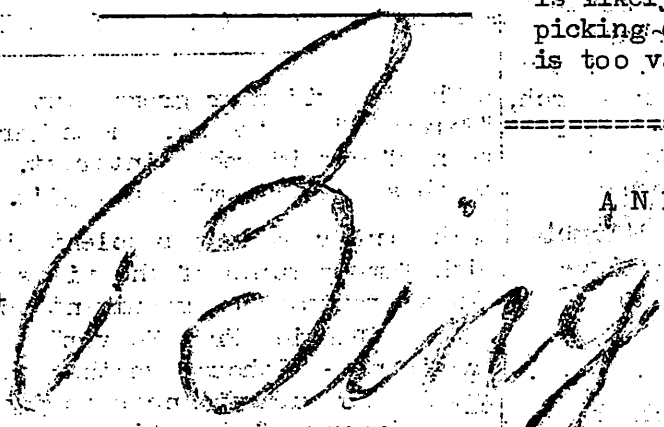
As a P.S. to the above, I would certainly say that "Thanks to You" must be among Bing's best-ever purely "Vocal Refrain" efforts. It evidences all the traits that Dr. Mize described many years later. ==========

++

+ Unfortunately, I was away from home - or a radio set - when Bing duly turned up on the Radio 2 (that is the old Light? isn't it). Several faithfuls hastened to let me know! Obviously it must have been a case of trying to get a gallon into a pint pot - still must not grumble again!

= My informant tells me they play the alleged "first" 'Sweet Leilani" - and White Christmas. On the other hand, I gayher that he was justly referred to as the greatest million-seller of them all. By the way, the Press is featuring many letters from readers deploring the shuffling of the B.B.C. radio programmes. They want a return to the "music they like". Hm. - How far back would that go, I wonder?

Bing's Buddies & Beaux!



AND THE DUET, &c

++++++++++++++

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

= You will recall, perhaps, that last time I told the story of a youthful friend of the 30's who waxed most indignant at having Bing's records "adulterated" by other singers, i.e. duets! He must have got over that long ago, I should think, for duets have since proved to be a sizeable part of Bing's record output - and of course, included many of the great names of show business.

= Yet, though the subject brought a fair degree of mail, it was most noticeable that while the writers sculled around the subject much as I did, very few ended up by naming the duet. Which undoubtedly speaks volumes for the difficulty involved.

= Even so, the exercise was well worthwhile, for among others, it brought me my first letter from a name, or rather a lady, I know so well - although as she pointed out, we've not met, but are rightly, friends through the I.C.C. The Circle is very rewarding in this direction.

= Now, I gave what I thought was a fair summary of the many styles of duets that Bing has performed - yet this delightful letter from Elsie Kennedy spotlighted a most glaring omission! I hang my head in shame:

Elsie wrote: "I found your question of Bing's duets most interesting.....but it's so difficult to choose a favourite. I'm very fond of my old record of "A FINE ROMANCE", with the late Dixie Lee Crosby, and also Bing with Al Jolson in "The Spaniard That Blighted My Life". That is really great, I think, and almost gets my vote for tops. But not quite. For me it is Bing with the Andrews Sisters - "Sparrow on a Treetop". Marvellous rhythm, perfect backing - and Bing in great voice. I wonder if you like it too?"

+ Well, there it is. I omitted those two tuneful duets Bing did with Dixie! - Whatever the musical merits of these songs were/are, I'm sure that for sentimental reasons alone, they will stand high in the regard of all old time Crosby admirers. I believe they were the only two? For myself, I liked these two efforts of course, - but I had the feeling when I first heard them that Dixie was not altogether happy. Doing them, possibly, to please Bing. "The Spaniard" of course, terrific,

= As one would anticipate, the Andrews Sisters figured high in the choices that were made, and I for one am not going to argue with Elsie over "Sparrow", even though I've already, in the earlier article, plumped for Gallgher & Shean.

= The rest of Elsie's letter was most interesting:

"Speaking of the million-selling discs gave me an idea, too. Wouldn't it be great if Ace of Hearts could be persuaded to issue an album of golden discs? I made a programme of them one evening, but of course, some of the 78's are a bit scratchy and well past their best, and would sound a lot better on a modern reissue.

All good wishes,
Elsie Kennedy".

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

And good wishes to you, Elsie. My reply will have been received by you some time ago. What a spanking idea, though. All the million-sellers on one album - or rather, it would have to be a two-record album at that. I may be wrong - Elsie & I! - but I don't think such an album has appeared. "Bing's Golden Favourites" yes, but not the million-sellers, has it? And of course, these gold-disc records have all appeared on different albums, some of them on several. On the other hand, some of them, such as "San Antonio Rose" are not at all easy to come by.

(Cont. over....

 BING & THE DUET: MILLION SELLERS (Cont).

= It seems to me so startlingly simple and elementary that such a two-record album should be available that it is incredible perhaps that the company hasn't thought of it. I say "company", because without doing any research, I believe Decca hold all the million-seller masters except the latest (not the "last") "True Love". I've said elsewhere here, though, that earlier records than "Sweet Leilani" must have sold a million. Columbia have said that "Temptation" was their biggest Crosby - and surely that reached the six-figure mark.

+ However, I think its a great idea of Elsie's and can only hope that this will catch the eye of Geoff. Milne.

+ To return to the duet, once more, a letter from my appreciative supporter, Frank Ashurst gave further illustration of the dangers of writing certain stories! With approximately a fifth of Bing's recorded output, it was to be expected that duets would be nominated that I had not only NOT GOT, but have never heard of! Frank wrote:

"....with regard to Bing and the Duet, my favourite is "Gypsy Love Song", with Frances Langford.

= I like the operetta style singing of the verse at the beginning, and also I like the song itself very much. The singing of Bing and Frances is excellent."

Well, Frank, you've got me.....I don't have this track, but you make it sound most attractive.

= Other letters, curiously, pointed out duets people didn't particularly like! For instance, one writer who "wrote completely on a personal basis - don't print! - doesn't like the way Mitzi Gaynor 'blasts off' at Bing in "You're the Top", especially at the end. He thought "Bing willingly and gladly gave ground...." But as one would expect, Bob Hope, especially Connee Boswell, and the "newer gal" Rosie, are all held in great esteem for their duets with Bing, as well as the lyric-writing genius, Johnny Mercer. As I said, it was an interesting exercise, but quite impossible to come out straight and declare what is the No. 1 duet! Thanks for helping, anyway.

++

MRS. CROSBY SENIOR SAYS IT WAS HER PRAYERS. BING SAYS IT WAS LUCK - BUT WE KNOW WHAT IT WAS !

++

F A R E W E L L T O T H E

========== Q U E E N M A R Y ==========

= The television programme put on to say "Farewell" to the ss. Queen Mary must have been of considerable interest, especially to those who remember the 30's.

= The programme was redolent with nostalgia, with famous tunes of the times providing an almost nonstop accompaniment to the commentary. "Pennies From Heaven" was particularly prominent - although whether this was because one needed such finances to pay for the first class luxury of the liner, or merely because it was a tremendous hit around the time, I couldn't quite decide. The shots of Henry Hall & the B.B.C. Dance Orchestra, specially engaged for the "maiden voyage" were of particular interest.

= Inevitably, reference was made to the Queen Mary's role as a troop-carrier in the Second World War, and her war-time uniform of sombre grey paint. One felt that somehow Mr. C. was going to crop up in this programme. But he didn't. Yet it stirred a chord in my memory, and a good deal of searching uncovered the reason for this feeling. And it turned out to be Bing's trip on a troop-carrier, right enough, but it was the famous Ile de France, and not the Queen Mary. Whether this little story is strictly true I'm not prepared to say, but it is relevant, and may be of interest:

"Many of the Broadway and Hollywood celebrities are fondly remembered for their generous gifts of their talents during these (wartime) voyages, but the most beloved was Bing Crosby.

= Crosby worked harder than anybody; he endeared himself to everyone aboard the ship. He was miserably, agonizingly, seasick throughout most of the crossing; nevertheless he insisted on putting on four one-hour shows a day so that all the troops could be entertained, 2,500 at a time, a gruelling schedule for any entertainer - even one who could keep his lunch down, which as a rule, Crosby could not. He could have made it easier on himself; the ships officers, who got three meals a day and had a pleasant private wardroom to eat them in, sympathetically invited Bing to join them, but he declined. If two meals a day in the mess hall were all the fighting men got, he said mildly, that would be good enough for him, and he took his green-faced place in the shuffling queue with the troops.

+ He did not spurn the officers' hospitality entirely: they had liquor, which the troops

BING ON THE ILE DE FRANCE (Cont)

did not, and Crosby could occasionally be prevailed upon to join the officers for a single highball in the evening. But then he invariably made it a point to leave shortly before eleven o'clock in order to spend an informal hour with Captain Lauder's Coast Guard gunners as they changed the watch, amiably chatting and joking, and agreeably singing any nostalgic old song anyone asked him for."

+ Leslie Gaylor passed this to me some time ago, and it was apparently from "The Ile de France" by Don Stamford. Maybe its all true - fits the image, anyway.

++

D O Y O U K N O W T H E L Y R I C S ?

Two more verses, or part verses, to identify. Answers, if stuck, on page 54.

No. 1: Am I dreaming, or am I awake?
I can't believe my eyes,
Is it all just a lovely mistake,
This heavenly surprise -
Me alone with you.....

No. 2: Oh what a night for dancing,
A night like this you know,
Is made for Love's romancing,
The moon is all aglow.
It spells temptation to me -
Right now I'd like to be.....

++

+ Anybody who happened to read my note in the last issue about the delightfully-named town of CROSBY, near Liverpool, must have been slightly puzzled. An important word to the sense of the paragraph was inadvertently omitted.

+ I said: "If any of our more dedicated members are contemplating to an appropriate town....." It should, of course, have read: "contemplating retiring to an appropriate town!

++

DON'T FORGET TO BE QUICKLY OFF THE MARK FOR THE NEW ACE OF HEARTS ISSUE - DUE NOVEMBER: ENTITLED RARE STYLING, CONTAINING HITHERTO UNISSUED MATERIAL. SUCCESS MEANS AN AWFUL LOT TO US EXPECTING MORE !

==========

Les Pythian's revelation that "MISSISSIPPI" is going to be screened soon by the B.B.C. T.V. is wonderful news. This was a tremendous film with wonderful songs: "Its Easy to Remember", "Soon", "Down By the River", and that great performance of Swannee River - all this and W.C.Fields, too!

= I wish the B.B.C. or (ITV) would go back even further and let us see again the film that gave us a first real look at Bing - THE BIG BROADCAST of 1932. It could never look corny or old-fashioned to me - or you either, I imagine! It would be quite appropriate too, with The Street Singer making a come-back in these very islands! Which reminds me, I saw a querying reference somewhere as to why Bing had referred to Arthur Tracey as a "treacly-voiced" tenor apropos that film. Well, treacly I should think means smooth and sweet - which is precisely what The Street Singer is. I'm certain it wasn't meant as derogatory.

= If I, in my enthusiasm, have strayed on Leslie's preserves, a thousand pardons!

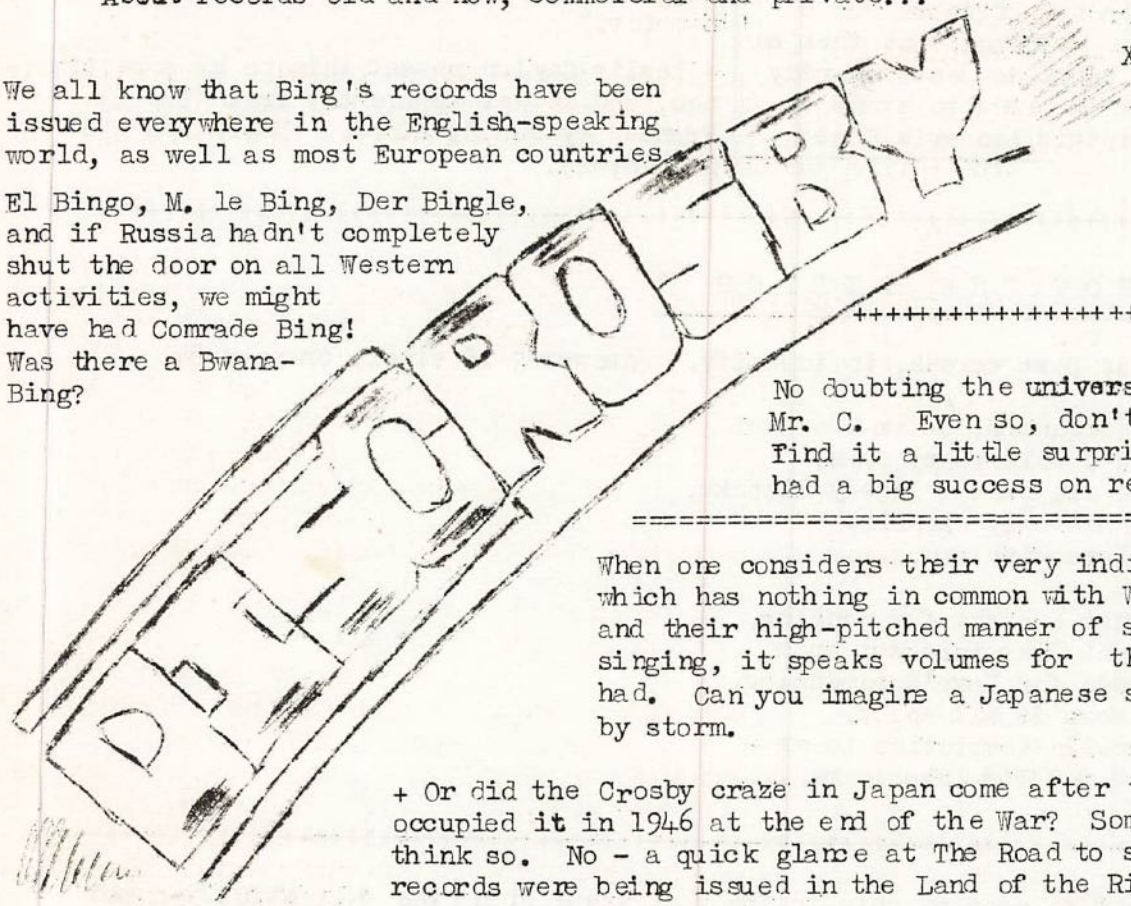
++

PERHAPS I'M HARDLY THE ONE TO PROCLAIM IT: BUT "THE GOLDEN YEARS" IS DOING WELL. BE GLAD TO HAVE YOU IN !

========== ==========

About records old and new, commercial and private...

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



+ We all know that Bing's records have been issued everywhere in the English-speaking world, as well as most European countries.

El Bingo, M. le Bing, Der Bingle, and if Russia hadn't completely shut the door on all Western activities, we might have had Comrade Bing! Was there a Bwana-Bing?

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

No doubting the universal appeal of Mr. C. Even so, don't you, like me, find it a little surprising that Bing had a big success on records in JAPAN?

==========

When one considers their very individual music, which has nothing in common with Western sounds, and their high-pitched manner of speaking and singing, it speaks volumes for the effect Bing had. Can you imagine a Japanese singer taking us by storm.

+ Or did the Crosby craze in Japan come after the Americans occupied it in 1946 at the end of the War? Somehow, I don't think so. No - a quick glance at The Road to shows Bing's records were being issued in the Land of the Rising Sun in 1932.

\+ + +

= I recently had the pleasure of initiating a Crosby collector into the style of the early Mills Brothers. He had no idea that these boys, in the beginning, imitated band instruments so effectively that it was difficult to tell them from the real thing. Indeed, he had been listening to "My Honey's Lovin' Arms" for years without realising that it was the Mills Brothers providing the instrumentation after Bing's first chorus. I'm not sure he believes it now; There are quite a few micro-groove issues on the market which do not, regrettably, give the brothers credit on this title. Hence, I suppose, the tendency to overlook it.

\+ + +

= It is nothing new for us to have a few tennagers brought home by the daughter asking if they can play some of the vintage albums! Honest. Favourite at the moment is Der Bingle. Mind you, Ace of Hearts 1 and 2 is pretty good at illustrating the early Bing, but Der Bingle is a fantastic collection of memorable performances. The incredible "Blue Prelude" is easily No. 1 with the youngsters, followed by "Ridin' Around in the Rain" and "Let's Put Out the Lights". "Last Round-Up" naturally is a firm favourite. Yet a very pertinent comment came from one of these youngsters the other day: "How did Bing come to be called a crooner with a powerful voice like that?" How indeed. Broken-down at that, according to Bing!

\+ + +

= Another favourite comment from visiting youngsters: "Oh, Bing Crosby - my dad's mad on him." But it turns out, alas, in most cases that they have fallen by the wayside of recent years. Same old story - they think the record shops contain only "beat" group records and classics. On the other hand, one does get the occasional uplift. A young lady told me "Oh, Country Hits - my Mum's got that - but she won't let us play it!" Appreciating the desire to look after valuable records, that surely is the wrong attitude.

\+ + +

we heard the exciting news, via Fred Romary, that Columbia has issued a two-record album of Bing in the early Thirties. That really is what most of us having been earnestly hoping for for years. Unfortunately, issue in America does not automatically mean issue in this country, as well we know. What of Blue Hawaii among others? News of the actual tracks involved is keenly awaited.

\+ + +

= Far be it from me to throw spanners in the works, but for good or ill, the private recording "BOUNCING WITH BING" has finally reached me from its promotor, Derek C. Parkes, down south in Salisbury. I said for good or ill, but truthfully, it is most certainly for good. VERY GOOD, at that. I love this album. Twenty grand songs from a truly great Crosby era. I could write pages about it - okay Fred, I won't - but I feel bound to touch on it. In the first place, considering the age of these radio transcripts, reproduction is fantastically good, although of course a bit of "rain" creeps in on some tracks. The album is very aptly named too, for all the numbers are bouncy, grandly interpreted by Bing. And in the very first number, "Stop and Reconsider" I doubt if Bing is heard in finer voice anywhere. Almost concert baritone stuff - with Bing's tremendous individuality of course.

\+ + +

= That song "Redwing" - surely we used to sing that years ago - with different words? Something to the effect that the "Sun shines bright on Charlie Chaplin"? My copy of the record is entirely bereft of all names and data, but I know that all these swingy numbers were taken from Kraft Music Hall broadcasts between 1938-42. It contains some delicious asides, or ad. libs. from Mr. C. After repeating Ta-Ra-Ra-Boom de Ay about twenty times, as required, Bing fades off "...nice lyric!" In another number, Bi-I-Bi" he has to scat that phrase ad. nauseum, and finally gasps: "When do I get a breath?"

\+ + +

= Apart from Chatanooga Choo Choo and How About You?, I don't think any of the other 18 titles have appeared commercially. Certainly it is great to hear well-remembered songs like "Scatterbrain" and "Playmates" given the Crosby treatment. The female group, presumably the Music Maids (?) gives some excellent assistance in some really rhythmic numbers, such as "Let That Be a Lesson to You" and "Ma, He's Making Eyes at Me". But quite outstanding, especially in his final "scat" chorus, is "Man with the Mandolin". A real, inimitable, Crosby swing of a chorus. This album is a splendid addition to anyone's collection.

\+ + +

+ Seems I do have some astute readers, after all! It has been pointed out to me that I've offered no comment on the E.P. that was issued in Australia, inspired by our "Down-Under" Crosby admirers. Well, my omission wasn't calculated. I have the record and like it very much (You don't expect me to dislike any Crosby record, do you? Bing Swings While Bregman Swings? Oh, let's forget that little episode, shall we? The RCA album; despite its limited circulation in this country I imagine most readers of BING will have the record. Two good ballads, and two "whizzers". "Aloha Means I Love You" is by far the No. 1 for me. A nice measured rhythm, a very musical accompaniment, not unlike a Mantovani job, make this a very fine track indeed. And of course, Bing has always made an especially good job of Hawaiian-based songs. As a matter of fact Bing sang this with an intensity of feeling unusual even for him. His voice almost fades away in places with feeling.

\+ + +

= Secondly, I would place the other ballad, "Music of Home", although I would have dispensed with the ultra-high pitched female chorus! An excellent lyric, which in other days would have slayed 'em!

"Clegg's old cow moos in the meadow:" for instance.

+ Reverting back to "Aloha Means I Love You" - I've just this minute played the track again. Listen to the way Bing sings:

"The starlight has gone from the skies...."

No-one is left in any doubt that the sky is very dark indeed. And it is full of scoops and tilts &c. as already explained in great detail earlier on in this issue!

LYRICS - See page 51: + + + 1. Without a Word of Warning. 2. Snuggled on your Shoulder.

+ "New Ashmolean Marching Song". Now that's an odd number to English ears. Played at a cracking, faster-than-marching pace Something in the style that those spectacular U.S. military bands attain. Bing as always enunciates every word very clearly - so useful in an involved number such as this. But it was a long while before I realised what seemed to be missing - then I realised that almost all the way through I was expecting Johnny Mercer to come in! That's it. It is the style of "On Behalf of the Visiting Firemen".

+ + +

+ The fourth title was the only one not new to me. "Its a Good Day" never had much appeal for me, no depth to it. Here it receives extremely rhythmic treatment at a sizzling pace, ending up with Bing whistling like billio. The least-favourite of the four for me. But altogether, a grand little record that makes one wonder why such fine songs were left in the vaults instead of being issued when made.

+ + +

= For a simple, unassuming, yet tremendously effective introduction to a song, one would search a long time to better that of "Day Dreaming". A beautiful, reflective, musical soliloquy by Bing that I listen to time and again. Have you played it lately?

+ + +

= I expect as you read this, you are being informed endlessly of how many shopping days there are to Christmas. It would be nice to know that Les Gaylor's efforts with Bing had borne fruit and there is to be a new Christmas record, or even album from Bing this Christmastide. I have my doubts, however. It is not difficult to imagine that all the while "White Christmas", "Silent Night", and "Adeste Fidelis" continue to bring in the revenue there is little inspiration to launch something new. Not that it matters unduly, perhaps, the old ones will certainly get their airing, both privately and over the air-waves.

+ + +

= On which note, I am reminded that this is the last BING before 1968. Its rather frightening how the years slip round, isn't it. Certainly a bad sign, allied to the fact that all the policemen appear to be boys this day! So, with other contributors I am certain, may I take this unseasonably early opportunity of wishing my Crosby friends everywhere a Very Happy Christmas - and a 1968 in which all your dreams are realised. A tall order, but that is my wish.

+ + +

= I hope, too, that by the next time Frank is asking for material, I will have attended my first Crosby meeting and met at last many more of the friends who, so far, have been names and delightful letters to me. I'm in for a treat, I know.

+ + +

+ So, hoping that once again Frank manages a piece of turkey from somewhere, and can therefore enjoy his Christmas Dinner Crosby style, it's time to wind up for this year. Greetings to all.

CAN'T WE TALK IT OVER? A quarterly miscellany of Crosbyana
********** by LES PHYTHIAN **********

'BING', official journal of The ICC, is now firmly and happily established on its own merits, much enjoyed by readers in various parts of the world and catering quarterly, I have every reason to believe, to a large and growing number of regular subscribers. As much can be said for Ralph Harding's excellent publication 'THE CROSBY COLLECTOR', currently setting an enviably high standard in terms of content and production, issued with wondrous frequency and lately sporting, as an extra attraction, a series of photo covers that are expertly chosen and stunningly reproduced. All of which is marvellous for Bing enthusiasts everywhere and doubtless very satisfying to the editors concerned. But in case Ralph and Frank are becoming complacent as a result of all this success, let me now heave a furtive but sizable bombshell into their respective editorial dens. Are they aware that a rival publication exists called the 'CROSBY HERALD', which appears every Friday and enjoys a steady circulation of around 13,000 copies? Pretty impressive and difficult to ignore, what? Whilst energetic attempts to revive Frank and Ralph are being made by well-wishers as far apart as North Shields and Anerley, S.E.20, let me quietly explain, for the benefit of that one kindly reader who is plainly all agog at the implications of this quite sensational revelation, that what I have just stated is perfectly true but that the 'CROSBY HERALD' is a weekly newspaper for those who live in the Borough of Crosby, that pleasant residential area within easy reach of Liverpool mentioned by Reg Bristo in his July columns. Yes, Reg, it's convenient for me, as you suggest, and I do travel that way occasionally (although I used to see the place far more often when I lived at Formby some years ago.) But absolutely not when there's anything going on at Goodison Park. Perish the thought!! As a matter of fact I'm altogether delighted that Reg brought this topic into the open, so to speak, because it enables me to force upon an even larger audience (always the optimist, you see!) a moderate but well-loved witticism that has hitherto been inflicted on local sufferers only. Before doing so, however, it is necessary to explain that the Borough of Crosby is made up of the former urban districts of Great Crosby and Waterloo-with-Seaforth, and includes, as well as the regions just named, Litherland, Blundellsands, Little Crosby and Hightown. All these districts are part and parcel of Crosby but some of them are nevertheless distinguished by postal numbers allocated under the coding system introduced by the City of Liverpool more than 30 years ago. The area which embraces Great Crosby is 'Liverpool 23', Waterloo is 'Liverpool 22', while Seaforth and Litherland constitute 'Liverpool 21'. Now if anyone is still with me, what I wish to make clear is this:- that for more moons than I care to remember I have gone through life informing people hereabouts, whether they wished to know it or not, that in my opinion 'Liverpool 23' is an accurate critical evaluation rather than a mere mundane geographical location. It goes without saying that the pure, indisputable logic behind this observation often goes over the heads of the unsuspecting citizens thus treated to so rare and sparkling an exercise of wit, but if only a relative handful of 'BING' readers glimpse the truly glittering quality of my minor if oft-repeated dictum then these meanderings will have been more than worthwhile.

Crosby films on television. Only "HERE COME THE WAVES" and "ROAD TO UTOPIA" since the last issue, both of them by courtesy of BBC-1. Welcome of course, but what on earth has become of the long-promised revivals of "MISSISSIPPI" and "RHYTHM ON THE RIVER"? If Mr. William G. Gilbert of BBC Television Enterprises reads this, we're still waiting patiently for these gems. And for "WE'RE NOT DRESSING".....Bing's recent appearance on 'The Andy Williams Show' turned out to be much as expected - his medley of duets with Andy were pleasing and his anecdotes as compelling as ever - but I was not alone in feeling disappointed that Mr. C did not essay a solo number during the proceedings. I wondered, in passing, how many viewers appreciated the significance of Andy's casual remark - "Oh, I know this one!" - just before he and Bing went airily into "Swinging on a Star". Very few, I imagine. (When Bing recorded this song for American Decca on 7th February 1944 he was assisted by the Williams Brothers Quartet, of which a then youthful Andy was a member.) I found the contributions of 'Tennessee Ernie' Ford and Kate Smith eminently dispensable - also much of what 'The Young Americans' had to offer - and, all things considered, felt it was rather a pity that Bing had 'guested' on this particular edition of the show. It was a pretty determined flag-waver most of the time and, for me, an infinitesimal amount of this stuff goes an incalculably long way.

My apologies for the dismal fact that this feature is even shorter - and later - than usual.

LES PHYTHIAN.

SWINGING ON A STAR

Lyrics by JOHNNY BURKE

Music by JIMMY VAN HEUSE

PARAMOUNT presents

GOING MY WAY

starring

BING CROSBY

BARRY FITZGERALD

JEAN HEATHER

AND

RISË STEVENS

ian Music Sales Corp. Ltd.
)R ST. WEST TORONTO
IOLE DISTRIBUTORS FOR CANADA
PRINTED IN CANADA